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Japan

Foreign Ministry Denies Contact With DPRK

OW0202142590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1353 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—A Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Friday denied a report that Japan made unofficial contacts with North Korea on the prospect of an air link between the two countries. But spokesman Taizo Watanabe confirmed that ministry officials met recently with a U.S. citizen of Korean descent to discuss a proposal for a new charter flight service between Nagoya and Pyongyang, via Shenyang in China.

Watanabe was responding to a report in the Friday evening edition of the mass-circulation ASAHI SHIMBUN that an "unofficial contact" was made when officials met on Wednesday with a representative of a Pyongyang-based travel agency who is serving as a proxy for the North Korean Government. Japan and North Korea have never opened diplomatic relations since the communist country was established as a result of World War II. Meanwhile, Tokyo's recent overtures to Pyongyang have been rebuffed.

Watanabe confirmed that officials met with a Korean-born American named Park Gyong-chung to hear her explanation of the proposed "direct" air link. Officials, who said they were not sure which half of the divided peninsula Park was from, said the woman introduced herself as the operator of a travel agency in Hong Kong and not as a representative of the North Korean Government.

Watanabe said it would be "misleading" to say she spoke for Pyongyang, but did not deny the ASAHI report that she serves as the overseas representative of a private North Korean venture company that handles government accounts. He reiterated previous explanations by the ministry that a proposal for a direct air link would have to be considered within the framework of the two countries' relations. Watanabe was referring to more pressing bilateral issues such as the absence of official contacts and the continued detention in North Korea of two Japanese seamen on spying charges.

Since Park appeared to suggest that the proposed flight would not necessarily entail the use of a single plane, he said: "It is not clear whether the scheme could be considered a direct flight in the true sense of the words." If that is the case, he said, the Transport Ministry would most likely deal with the approval procedures within the confines of Japan's air agreement with China, considering only the Nagoya-Shenyang portion and leaving the rest to the jurisdiction of China. Passengers could then also be exempted from undergoing formal immigration procedures on the Chinese side, he added. But if the same aircraft were used, with only its flight number changed in Beijing, there would be technical complications, he said, and the flight would then take on a "direct" character.

The ASAHI SHIMBUN said the plan envisages use of aircraft of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC). The paper reported that Park wishes to hold a trial flight around mid-March for travel agents and reporters. She also reportedly told Japanese officials that a Hong Kong company operating a flight from the colony to Pyongyang via Shenyang is in touch with Chinese authorities on the proposed trial flight from Japan.

Gerasimov, Moriyama Welcome Bush Proposal

OW0102142990 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Commenting on President Bush's new disarmament proposal, Gerasimov, chief of the Information Administration of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, positively appraised the Bush proposal, saying that, in the first place, the Soviet Union is in favor of the withdrawal of foreign armed forces from all countries and the new proposal is a first step in the right direction.

Meanwhile, Chief Cabinet Secretary Moriyama told a press conference today that President Bush's arms reduction proposal shows the U.S. Government's movement toward reducing conventional forces in Europe in accordance with the accord reached at the Malta summit between the United States and the Soviet Union. Japan, she said, looks forward to seeing further progress in those efforts and their favorable influence on Europe and on East-West relations in general.

Regarding economic policy, President Bush appeared tough toward Japan, although he did not mention Japan by name. In that connection, the chief cabinet secretary said: That is the position Washington has been maintaining to date. As for Japan, we will continue to make voluntary efforts. She thus stressed that Japan intends to continue efforts to alleviate trade frictions through dialogue.

Kaifu, Opposition Leaders Debate Election Issues

Kaifu Foresees New Era

OW0202103090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0842 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text) Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and leaders of major four opposition parties held a televised debate Friday ahead of the coming general election for the Diet's House of Representatives.

In the first nationally televised debate in 30 years, Kaifu, president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], said the general election is to create a new era and the people will make a judgment on the domestic and foreign policies Japan should adopt in the future.

Takako Doi, chairwoman of the No. 1 opposition party, the Japan Socialist Party [JSP], said the general election will decide whether a democratic government will be really established in Japan.

Kaifu said, "When I was elected LDP president last August, the party was in the worst crisis since its founding. The Kaifu cabinet started from the depths but has struggled for policies." Kaifu said his cabinet compiled the budget for fiscal 1990 without reliance on deficit-financing bond, the first such budget in 15 years.

Doi urged abolition of the controversial 3 percent consumption tax introduced last April and proposed new tax reform to be decided through democratic procedures.

The three other panelists—Koshiro Ishida, chairman of the No. 2 opposition party, Komeito, and Tetsuzo Fuwa, chairman of the Presidium of the Japan Communist Party, and Eiichi Nagasue, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party—also demanded the scrapping of the consumption tax.

Asked how Japan will respond to the changes in Eastern Europe, Kaifu said the East-West confrontation in Europe has ended and that Japan will positively take part in the creation of a new order in Europe. The prime minister said he hopes the changes in Europe will exert a favorable influence on the Asia-Pacific region.

In Asia, outstanding problems include the conflict in Kampuchea, and questions concerning the Korean peninsula, China, and territorial dispute between Japan and the Soviet Union, Kaifu added.

Doi replied that her party wants to bring together the United States, the Soviet Union, China, and North and South Koreas in order to secure peace in the Asia-Pacific region.

Ishida said Japan as an economic superpower should actively take the initiative for peace.

Fuwa replied that Japan should take a lead in abolishing one military bloc by scrapping the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.

Nagasue said Japan must press the United States and the Soviet Union to start talks on reducing submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM) so as to promote peace in the Asia-Pacific region.

Asked how Japan should resolve economic issues with the United States, Doi said relations with Washington are important and difficult and she wants to visit the U.S. after the general election to help improve bilateral relations.

Japan's foreign policy has in the past been decided within the framework of Japan-U.S. relations, but bilateral relations should be viewed on a global scale, she said.

Kaifu said the relationship between Tokyo and Washington is a cornerstone of Japan's foreign policy, and it is natural for the two countries to coordinate their policies because their economies account for one-third of the world economy.

Nagasue said Japan should make efforts to convince the U.S. that the two countries are partners, while Fuwa said he finds it strange that the U.S. is forcing Japan to fit its customs.

Kaifu replied that Japan is not a "yes-man" to the U.S. and will say what should be said, and that it is important to solve bilateral issues through talks.

The debate at the Japan National Press Club was held on the eve of the proclamation Saturday of campaigning for the February 18 general election. The party heads answered questions posed by journalists on Japan-U.S. relations, political reform, the consumption tax, political and social systems, a coalition government, and Japan's role in the international community.

JSP Advocates Social Democracy

OW0202112290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0926 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Japan Socialist Party (JSP) Chairwoman Takako Doi said Friday that her party will aim at establishing social democracy in Japan.

Speaking in Japan's first televised election debate in 30 years, Doi countered Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu who accused the JSP of sticking to a party platform seeking socialist revolution in Japan. Kaifu and Doi were taking part with three other political party leaders in the debate prior to the general election for the House of Representatives set for February 18.

Kaifu, president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said freedom and democracy have defeated socialism, noting sweeping political and economic reforms in Eastern Europe.

Doi said the JSP, Japan's largest opposition party, has repeatedly called for respect for democracy and the war-renouncing Japanese Constitution. The country's first female head of a major political party said the JSP will soon scrap the old-fashioned party platform.

The other leaders taking part were Koshiro Ishida, chairman of the No. 2 opposition party Komeito, Tetsuzo Fuwa, Presidium chairman of the Japan Communist Party (JCP), and Eiichi Nagasue, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP).

Nagasue accused Kaifu of trying to divert voters' attention from the unpopular 3 percent consumption tax and from the LDP's money-oriented politics.

Fuwa, rejecting the argument that capitalism and democracy are the same thing, said the ideology of socialism is totally different from the Stalinist model. The JCP aims at establishing a society where people cannot be exploited but can enjoy an affluent life, he said.

Kaifu said he does not think Japan's opposition parties can establish a coalition government because of policy differences. He was referring to efforts by the JSP, Komeito, the DSP and the United Social Democratic Party to forge such a coalition.

Nagasue said that he is sure that the four parties can agree on the establishment of the coalition government if they win a majority in the general election.

Ishida said Komeito will not join hands with the LDP if the ruling conservative party loses its majority in the 512-seat lower house.

U.S. Ties, Security Discussed

OW0202131790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1255 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Heads of Japan's five major political parties, despite their differences over specific tactics, on Friday all acknowledged the continued importance of Japan-U.S. ties.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Japan-U.S. relations are the core of Japan's foreign policy, and gave assurances that the two nations are not heading on a collision course. Kaifu, president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], was the only person who referred to Japan-U.S. bilateral ties in the 3-minute keynote speeches which opened a nationally televised debate between the five political leaders. Ties between Tokyo and Washington are currently entangled in fierce trade disputes linked to Japan's huge trade surplus.

Kaifu, stressing that policy cooperation can defuse crisis, said efforts are being made to achieve progress by March in the so-called Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks between the two countries, aimed at removing barriers to trade. Japan and the U.S. have agreed to produce an interim report by then. Kaifu said he wants to visit the United States after the February 18 general election for the House of Representatives.

Takako Doi, chairwoman of the leading opposition party, the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida, Japan Communist Party Presidium Chairman Tetsuzo Fuwa, and Democratic Socialist Party Chairman Eiichi Nagasue joined Kaifu in the 3-hour debate on issues involved in the general election.

The four opposition leaders criticized the LDP for failing to take necessary domestic measures before the U.S. irritation reached high levels.

Nagasue called for the establishment of a regular joint committee to discuss bilateral issues, while Doi said Japan should cease regulating its foreign policy primarily by its ties with the United States. Doi nevertheless expressed hopes of visiting the U.S. herself after the election.

While all leaders noted the need for Japan to prepare for the new post-Cold War era signalled last December in the U.S.-Soviet summit at Malta, they failed to present specific policies to meet the rapidly evolving changes around the globe, especially in the security sphere.

Fuwa was the only leader who urged a fundamental review of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, concluded as part of U.S. defense strategy in Asia at the height of cold war confrontation in the 1950's.

Fuwa criticized the presence of U.S. Forces in Japan as relics of the LDP's "submissive" policies.

Nagasue, while admitting that the security treaty should be maintained, criticized as a violation of "equal partnership" the U.S. demand that Japan's share of the military burden be increased while the U.S. cuts back its own defense spending in line with the changing international climate.

Doi proposed creation of an institution in the Asia-Pacific region to secure peace and respond to the movement toward disarmament and coexistence unfolding in Europe. But, like others who avoided taking up the Japan-U.S. security agreement issue in depth, Doi stopped short of saying whether she supported its abolition, noting only that the traditional security treaty was understandable within the cold war framework.

The opposition leaders avoided the security issue out of consideration for the election, sources closed to the opposition parties said. The opposition leaders have yet to iron out differences in their defense policies and thus are reluctant to reveal the gap when they are appealing for a coalition government, the sources said.

The LDP government cites a persisting Soviet threat in the surrounding areas and is reported to be considering devoting an increased portion of the 4 trillion yen defense budget to finance U.S. troops in Japan.

Half of Voters Foresee LDP Sharing Power

OW2901044190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0345 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 29 KYODO—About half of Japanese voters expect the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] to be forced to share power with the opposition after the forthcoming House of Representatives elections, Japanese major daily newspapers said Monday.

Headlining the results of surveys conducted separately nationwide, the dailies also said, however, that the election will be a comeback of sorts for the LDP, which analysts have said is in danger of losing control of the Japanese Government for the first time in 35 years.

In its January 20-21 survey of 3,000 eligible voters, the ASAHI SHIMBUN found that 48 percent of the 2,315 respondents expect there to be a balance of power between the LDP and the opposition.

The YOMIURI SHIMBUN, which got responses from 2,199 of a similar number of voters polled on the same two days, also reported that 49 percent anticipate a balance of power to emerge.

The MAINICHI SHIMBUN, which interviewed 3,000 people from January 19 to 21, said that 55 percent of the 2,222 respondents expect some form of coalition government to emerge after the election. While the election may signal the demise of the Liberal Democrats' one-party rule, 37 percent of the voters surveyed by the ASAHI and YOMIURI said they would cast their ballots for the LDP candidates.

The ASAHI termed this a "comeback" trend for the ruling party, support for which sank to around 20 percent last July when it lost control of the House of Councillors in an election that followed a series of money and sex scandals and the introduction last April of a consumption tax.

Another third of the pollees said they will vote for an opposition party candidate with the Japan Socialist Party leading with 24 percent in the ASAHI survey and 22 percent in the YOMIURI tally. Only 18 percent of the respondents in the ASAHI survey and 16 percent of the MAINICHI poll said they foresee a continuation of the LDP's single-party rule. The LDP needs to win 257 of the lower house's 512 seats to retain control of the government. On questions about expected campaign issues the surveys indicated widespread dissatisfaction with the 3 percent consumption tax. A total of 61 percent of respondents in the YOMIURI survey considered the tax the key issue of the campaign.

The ASAHI discovered that 45 percent of voters support an LDP-proposed plan to revise the tax, while another 40 percent support the opposition's call to abolish it.

In the YOMIURI survey, 25 percent said they want to see government reforms in the wake of last summer's Recruit money-for-favors scandal, compared with 52 percent before last July's upper house election.

USSR Foreign Ministry Upgrades Japan Sections

OW0102150290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1413 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—The Soviet Union has upgraded two Japan sections in the Foreign Ministry to departments, a Soviet diplomatic source said here Thursday. The source said the move was made in recognition of Japan "not only as an economic power, but as a country that is assuming an increasingly large political role on the global stage." The change indicates a greater emphasis on ties with Japan, as only the United States, China and India have been accorded the same status in the past.

The source said that until mid June 1986 there was only one Japan section, but it was divided into two sections about six months ago. One section has since dealt with Japan-Soviet relations exclusively, while the other has handled analysis of Japanese internal and external affairs in general, the source said.

A Japanese Foreign Ministry official, however, denied there was any significance in the Soviet Foreign Ministry's restructuring. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, called the change "cosmetic" and said it was applied equally to all the other sections in the Bureau of Pacific and Southeast Asian Countries. He also noted that there has not been any change in the personnel in charge of the Japan sections. "So it's not appropriate to view this as a kind of symbol of a new foreign policy focus on Japan relations," the official said.

The Soviet source also expressed Moscow's hope to see realized an eight-point program for improved Japan-Soviet ties that was proposed earlier this month by former Foreign Minister and Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Secretary General Shintaro Abe. Abe's proposal, put forth in a meeting with President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow on January 15, called in part for expanded economic exchanges while the two countries grapple with their dispute over four Soviet-occupied islands, which has delayed a peace treaty for over four decades. The Soviet source called the Japanese Government's support of the proposal "fundamental to the future development of bilateral ties."

A Foreign Ministry official confirmed that the government plans to implement Abe's party-level proposals in the framework of its own five-point policy of "expanded equilibrium," or rather expanded ties in four areas other than the territorial and peace treaty negotiations. "We don't have any intention of declaring our official 'endorsement' of (Abe's) eight-point proposal, but the fact is that we can make a contribution to its implementation," the official said.

The Soviet source denied any hidden meaning in Gorbachev's mention to Abe of Japan's "sovereign right" with regard to the disputed islands, explaining it as a mere reference to Japan's right to state its own case, right or wrong, at the negotiating table.

On Japan's request to the U.S. for Secretary of State James Baker to take up the territorial issue when he meets his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze on February 6-7, the Soviet sources said Shevardnadze would say nothing Moscow has not already said to Japan.

The diplomat reiterated Moscow's proposal for both sides to exchange drafts for a peace treaty, something Japan has rejected as a move to overshadow the central role of the territorial issue.

They also denied that domestic events in the Soviet Union have in any way compromised Gorbachev's position of leadership or Moscow's adherence to "new thinking" in its external relations.

Resumption of Aid to Panama Considered

OW3101014390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1452 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 30 KYODO—A senior Foreign Ministry official visited Panama recently and discussed the possibility of resuming Japanese economic assistance to the battle-scarred country, a Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed Tuesday.

The official, Mitsuo Sakaba, director of the ministry's Second Latin American Affairs Division, also visited Nicaragua to lay the groundwork for Japan's participation in election monitoring activities next month under United Nations auspices, officials said.

Commenting on Sakaba's trip, Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe took issue with media reports that Japan has decided to resume its official loans to Panama. He said the reports have "no foundation at all." But Watanabe acknowledged that Sakaba met with representatives of the new government of U.S.-installed President Guillermo Endara and discussed "the possibility of extending some economic cooperation."

Another ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the issue of aid was touched on "in general terms," but no commitment was made by Japan. "We have extended certain level of economic assistance to Panama in the past and we are ready to consider possibilities for the future," he explained.

Japan, Panama's second largest aid donor in 1988, suspended its aid last September when the country was under the rule of Gen. Manuel Noriega.

U.S. President George Bush last Thursday proposed an economic recovery package for Panama totaling more than 1 billion dollars. Endara had reportedly sought 2 billion dollars in U.S. Assistance.

The Foreign Ministry official would not deny reports that the U.S. has requested Japan to follow suit, but said an official request for assistance must be filed by Panama itself.

Despite the importance Japan attaches to Panama and its canal, Japanese financial assistance is contingent on the country's meeting the standard criteria for receiving aid, he said. "The figures we have for Panama's national per capita income are considerably high," he noted, casting doubt on Panama's eligibility.

Officials said Sakaba also visited Nicaragua and Mexico on his "familarization trip" to Latin America. In Nicaragua, with which relations have remained low key under the Sandinista government, Sakaba met with the vice foreign minister and U.N. officials to discuss Japanese participation in the election monitoring process.

The Foreign Ministry plans to send six Spanish-speaking officials and four support staff to join the 400-member international observer force which will monitor Nicaragua's general elecion on February 25, officials said. An official announcement is expected to be made on Friday.

In Mexico City, officials confirmed that Sakaba's discussions included the proposed visit to Japan of President Carlos Salinas, who officials said is set to come between April and September.

Japan To Donate Food Aid to Poland

OW3101133690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1229 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 31 KYODO—The government will donate 1.32 billion yen to the World Food Program (WFP) to extend food assistance to Poland, government sources said Wednesday. The government has exchanged a memorandum on the donation with the WFP in Rome, the sources said. The Rome-based WFP will use the money to provide Poland with wheat produced in Hungary or the United States, they said.

The donation came as part of a 250 million dollar food aid package that Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu pledged in his 11-day tour of Europe early this month.

Poland, which is in transition to a market-oriented economy, has been suffering from surging food prices and a dwindling food supply. The U.S. and the European Community (EC), fearing that the food crisis might have adverse effects on the unfolding political and economic reforms there, are giving Poland top priority in food assistance, the sources said.

Bank Urges Close Watch Over World Economy

OW3101010490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0802 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 30 KYODO—Continued attention needs to be paid to rapidly changing global financial and political developments that could force a complete change in business practices and price behavior, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) warned in a report issued Tuesday. The central bank's quarterly report predicts the growth tempo of the world economy as a whole, especially in the United States, will gradually decelerate in 1990.

But the slowdown will be "moderate" as economic growth in European and Asian countries in general is expected to remain relatively steady. Robust corporate capital investment in plant and equipment, the main engine of the recent economic expansion worldwide so far, is likely to produce a "moderate easing of market conditions" in the latter half of the year due to increased production capacity, the report said. "Nevertheless, people have to pay particular attention to greater uncertainties looming ahead of the world economy," it said.

Spelling out factors that might bring about a slowdown in Japan's economy the bank's report touched in the first place on crude oil prices, saying oil price movements are likely to become a major disturbing influence on the

world economy. It said crude oil prices seem more inclined to move upward compared with recent years, pointing to a possibility of a drop in oil output in the Soviet Union due to strikes and for other unforeseen reasons.

Secondly, central bank economists said there is a possibility that a tightening of market conditions worldwide might arise as a result of accelerated moves toward integration of the European community and rapidly changing East-West relations. Such moves, the bank said, could bring about excessive fixed investment and consumer spending in the region.

The abruptly changing international political situation could be a major cause of concern to the world currency markets, thereby causing instability in foreign exchange rates, the report said. The yen's "stable and higher" value against other foreign currencies is essential to foster price stability, it said. "The stronger yen is necessary also in view of the ongoing efforts to correct the external trade imbalance," the report said.

Turning to the outlook for the Japanese economy, the report said the pace of growth of the domestic economy will probably decelerate gradually in the second half of the year. But the economy as a whole will still maintain a relatively high growth rate in all of 1990, although the growth tempo of corporate fixed investment is likely to slow gradually in some basic materials-producing industries and also in certain service sectors, the report said.

Although the bank dismissed "any likelihood of the Japanese economy entering a substantial adjustment phase in 1990," it cited as possible risks to the economy "any marked acceleration in price increases" and "external friction linked to foreign trade and investment." As potential inflationary factors, the central bank singled out the yen's weakness, surges in labor costs and the current high-paced money supply growth rate. While stressing close monitoring of future price trends, the bank also underscored the importance of a "more detailed examination" of prices that have not been covered in its traditional inflation pointers. The report said that to monitor prices from a broader perspective, service costs generated between corporations, as well as land and other real estate prices, will also require the bank's close monitoring.

Import Contracts Up, Exports Down in January

OW3101011090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0634 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 30 KYODO—The combined total of import contracts concluded by Japan's 18 major trading firms in December amounted to 1.272 trillion yen, up 20.6 percent from a year before, an industry organization reported Tuesday. Export contracts, however, dropped 2.6 percent to 957.1 billion yen, the first year-on-year drop in exports in the past three months, the Japan Foreign Trade Council said.

The council's regular data provides an early indication of trends in Japan's trading activity. The 18 trading houses handle 50 percent of Japan's total exports and 70 percent of its total imports.

Fuel imports surged a sharp 43.1 percent to accelerate the total import contract growth. Food imports from such countries as the United States and Australia also posted a 28.5 percent increase.

In the export sector, steel exports plunged 22.4 percent, but chemicals posted a large gain of 49.7 percent.

Meanwhile, the council reported that total export contracts in 1989 amounted to 13.610 trillion yen, up 3.0 percent from the previous year. Import contracts came to 15.986 trillion yen, up 16.2 percent.

In dollar terms, export contracts came to 98.944 billion dollars, down 4.0 percent, and import contracts to 115.690 billion dollars, up 7.8 percent.

In the export sector, shipbuilding recorded a year-on-year increase of 50.5 percent, and the chemicals sector had the next highest increase of 21.9 percent. Orders for ships and tankers rose because vessels built in the shipbuilding boom of the 1970s are now being replaced, the council said.

On the other hand, the machinery imports posted a strong 73.4 percent increase which pushed up the growth of the entire import sector. This was attributed mainly to large-lot orders for aircraft by the U.S. and West European countries. The meat and cereals sector also increased 15.7 percent from a year earlier.

By region, exports to the U.S. rose 7.8 percent from the previous year and imports from the U.S. rose 44.3 percent. Exports to China declined 26.4 percent due to the country's economic adjustment policies and its shortage of foreign currency reserves, the council added.

Foreign Currency Reserves Decline in January

OW0102142190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0917 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—Japan's foreign currency reserves fell 2,178 million dollars in January to 82,717 million dollars, the Finance Ministry said Thursday. The decrease was the first in three months after showing rises in December and November. A ministry official attributed the decline to active selling of dollars by the Bank of Japan for yen in the exchange market.

In January, the dollar rose strongly against the yen, touching the 146 yen level momentarily amid uncertainty over Japan's politics as well as the situation in the Soviet Union and East Europe. The gap between the dollar's highest and lowest rates during the month was 3.20 yen on a Tokyo closing basis.

Despite the decrease in January, Japan appears to have retained the top position in foreign reserves, which consist of gold, convertible foreign currencies, and special drawing rights (SDRS).

Taiwan held foreign reserves worth 74 billion dollars at the end of October 1989, followed by the United States with 71.5 billion dollars and West Germany with 63.9 billion dollars at the end of last November.

Japan, U.S. Extend Energy R&D Pact 5 Years

OW0202001990 Tokyo KYODO in English 2302 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Japan and the United States extended for five years Friday an agreement on joint energy research and development, the government announced. The two countries have exchanged notes in Washington on the extension of the accord up to January 1995 and on some additional provisions, including ones about protection of intellectual rights.

The accord, signed in 1979, is aimed at joint studies in six fields, including nuclear fusion and high-energy physics.

Government To Extend Assistance to Sri Lanka

OW3101010990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0734 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 30 KYODO—Japan will extend up to 30.1 billion yen in low-interest development loans to Sri Lanka, Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday. Documents to that effect were exchanged in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo between representatives of both goverments, officials said.

The Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan package, which comprises of up to 3 billion yen in untied commodity loans, with [as received] and the rest in partially untied project loans, represents an 18 percent increase over the previous loan package, officials said. The interest rate for both types of loans was set at 2.5 percent per annum, while the period for repayment was set at 25 and 30 years, respectively.

The seven projects include expansion of a port; rehabilitation of a cement factory and a railway; improvement of water supply and drainage; transmission and grid substation development; and expressway construction.

Japan is by far the largest bilateral ODA donor to Sri Lanka. Officials said Japan's aid to Sri Lanka has not been negotiatively [as received] affected by the civil unrest there, because projects are located in the central and southern parts of the island, away from the ethnic turmoil in the north.

Japan To Train Southeast Asian Workers

OW3101053690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1033 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 30 KYODO—A total of 204 Southeast Asian trainees from three Asian countries will arrive in Japan between February and March to participate in an on-the-job training program offered by the Japanese Government, the Labor Ministry said on Tuesday.

The 94 Indonesians, 73 Thais and 37 Malaysians will take part in a program provided for Southeast Asian countries, Hong Kong and South Korea by the Japan Vocational Ability Development Association, a ministry affiliate. An initial group of 10 Malaysians will arrive in Japan on February 9 to begin the program, which the ministry said would take place every year if the government allocates sufficient funds.

Trainees will undergo on-the-job training in 20 private car, textile and machine firms for a maximum one and a half years after first being taught Japanese and factory safety regulations for three months at the association.

The Labor Ministry will pay the trainees 83,000 yen a month during the training course and will provide about 30,000-50,000 yen for the firms receiving the trainees. The ministry will also give trainees half the fare of a single ticket between Japan and their own countries.

India Vows To Be Open to Japanese Investment

OW3101081790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0703 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 31 KYODO—India will continue to be open to Japanese investment despite a change in political leadership following the ouster of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in the November election, Indian business officials said Wednesday. The statement was made at a press conference following the 22nd joint meeting of the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee held Tuesday and Wednesday.

R.P. Goenka, who headed the Indian delegation, said India will continue to ask Japan to boost its investment in India.

Earlier, in the conference, Rokuro Ishikawa, president of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who led the Japanese team, expressed concern that the new Indian Government led by V.P. Singh might abandon the policy of liberalized foreign investment championed by Gandhi. Goenka said India is a good place for Japanese companies to set up manufacturing footholds.

Raunaq Singh, president of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, echoed Goenka and said Japan should shift its overseas investment to India from Southeast Asian nations. These smaller nations, he said, have no more room for Japan's investments. India is a huge market, with 160 million potential buyers among a population of more than 800 million, he

said. This potential customer base is expected to grow 8 percent each year in the future, he added.

Charat Ram, chairman of Jay Engineering Works Ltd., said India is expecting Japanese investment, especially in such fields as computer software and automobile parts. India is also welcoming entry by Japanese financial institutions, he said. Mitsui Bank and the Bank of Tokyo have already set up branch offices in India, while Sanwa Bank is planning to make advances there.

According to the latest available data, Japan's investment in India amounted to 24 million dollars in 1988, compared with 21 million dollars in 1987 and 11 million dollars the year before.

Japanese conference participants expressed appreciation for India's vow to welcome Japanese investment but said some obstacles remain in the Indian market that make it difficult for Japanese companies to do business there.

Saburo Aoki, chairman of the Standing Committee, said foreign companies that have teamed up with Indian firms are not allowed to acquire more than a 40 percent share of the joint ventures. He said the government's restraint on visas issued to foreign engineers and a weak infrastructure are among major impediments.

During the two-day meeting, both sides also agreed to further boost bilateral trade, which has shown a dramatic increase in recent years. Bilateral trade between Japan and India totaled 4 billion dollars in 1989, 70 percent higher than 2.3 billion dollars in 1984.

Exports from India grew 90 percent during the six-year period, rising to 2 billion dollars last year from 1.1 billion dollars in 1984. India's trade deficit with Japan, meanwhile, fell to 40 million dollars in 1989 from 800 million dollars six years before.

The conference also released a joint statement pledging greater cooperation between the two countries in software development and tourism as well as trade, foreign investment and technology transfer.

The next joint meeting of the committee is scheduled to be held in India late this year or early next year.

Envoys to Southwest Asia Urge Early Kaifu Visit

OW0102144190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1234 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—Japanese ambassadors to five Southwest Asian countries concluded two-days of consultations here Thursday with an agreement on "an urgent need" for the prime minister to visit the region "at an early stage" to demonstrate that it is not neglected in Japan's global outlook.

Foreign Ministry officials said the envoys to Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka also agreed on the need to alleviate regional concern over the future flow of Japanese economic assistance by expanding and perfecting such aid.

The ambassadors recognized anxiety among countries of the region that they may be left behind as the political focus of the world shifts to Eastern Europe and the economic focus shifts to Asia-Pacific cooperation and the market integration of the European Community (EC). The countries are also worried about the possibility of a cutback in aid from Japan, their greatest benefactor, and from other donors due to their new-found interests in Eastern Europe, the ambassadors said.

They concluded Japan should send its top leader to set them at ease in a demonstration of Japan's commitment to some 1 billion people living on the Indian subcontinent. The envoys noted that no Japanese leader has visited the region since 1984 when then Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone visited India and Pakistan. No prime minister has ever visited Bangladesh since its independence in 1971, nor Nepal, while Sri Lanka has not been visited since then Premier Nobosuke Kishi went there in 1957.

With Japanese ties to the region centered on economic assistance, the envoys said both sides must promote ties in such areas as an expanded political dialogue, cultural exchanges and increased investment.

The ambassadors saw no direct impact of East-West reconciliation on the region, but noted that the resulting secessionist tendencies in the Soviet Union have apparently had an indirect effect on ethnic Muslims in India. Despite rising political tensions, as illustrated by the recent turmoil in Kashmir, military tensions are less pronounced, the ambassadors observed. While tensions remain strong between India and Pakistan, both countries appear to be exercising self-restraint, they said.

But the envoys also pointed to increasing anxiety among some countries in the region about what they view as increased Indian militarism in the wake of a reduced U.S. and Soviet presence in the Indian Ocean. Officials said they were not completely convinced, however, that India aims to become a military power.

The envoys expressed hope that new Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh will maintain his predecessor's economic liberalization policies. Japan awaits a chance to confirm the new Indian Government's seriousness in cutting bureaucratic red tape when New Delhi releases its draft budget report in March, the ambassadors said.

Asked about reports of a substantial cut in Japanese aid to Nepal, owing to alleged corruption and technical problems stemming from India's partial economic blockade, officials quoted the envoys as telling the Nepalis that the problem was "delayed procedures on Nepal's part."

Chinese Defector Leaves for Asylum in Canada

OW0102225590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1325 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Narita, Chiba Pref., Feb. 1 KYODO—A Chinese woman who took part in China's pro-democracy movement last year left for Canada on Thursday after spending seven months in seclusion at an airport hotel here. The Canadian Government granted asylum last month to the 32-year-old woman, whose identity has been withheld.

The woman, from Guangdong Province, fled to Hong Kong last June after she was questioned by Chinese authorities on her participation in the pro-democracy campaign, sources said She boarded a Japan Airlines (JAL) jetliner bound for Saipan via Narita in early July and asked for political asylum in Saipan, a self-governing external territory of the United States, the sources said. But both Saipan and Hong Kong refused her entry, sending her back to Narita airport, they said.

The woman had disposed of her passport for security reasons before arriving here and was not granted legal entry into Japan, which bans the entry of foreigners without passports, according to the sources During her seclusion at an airport hotel, she applied for asylum in the United States and Canada, the sources said.

Before leaving Narita aboard a JAL plane Thursday, the woman said she was unhappy with the Chinese communist system as it allows few human rights, but said if China became a country acceptable to her, she would return home in the future.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Leaves for Home

OW3101065090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0500 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 31 KYODO—Saudi Arabia's Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Shaykh Hisham Muhyi al-Din Nazir, left Tokyo for Riyadh on Wednesday at the end of a 7-day visit to Japan.

During his stay, Nazir met Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, and International Trade and Industry Minister Hikaru Matsunaga. Nazir also met Japanese business executives.

Oil Delegation Departs Tokyo for Seoul

LD2901150990 Tehran IRNA in English 1330 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20, IRNA—An Iranian oil delegation headed by deputy oil minister for international affairs Majid Hedayatzadeh ended its one-week visit here and left for Seoul Monday [29 January].

While here, the high-ranking delegation briefed Japanese officials on Iranian oil policy in the country's five-year development plan and held talks with major Japanese trading companies.

With termination of the Iraqi imposed war against Iran and finalization of Tehran-Tokyo dispute over the Imam Khomeyni petrochemical project, it seems now that Japanese trade companies are showing increasing interest to participate in Iranian long-term projects particularly in the oil field.

In this connection, several delegations from Japan Federation of Economic Organisations (Keidanren) are expected to visit Tehran soon.

The contract won by Nippon Steel Company for reconstruction of Salman oil platform in the Persian Gulf seems to be indicative of Japan's keenness to cooperate with the Islamic Republic.

Iran with a daily export of 300,000 barrels of oil to Japan is the fourth Japanese oil supplier after the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia.

Japan attaches great importance to its relations with Persian Gulf countries partly due to its dependence on the regional oil as it is feared that oil production outside the Persian Gulf region would decrease soon.

North Korea

454th MAC Meeting Begins in Panmunjom

North Demands 'Wall' Removal

SK0202040390 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0210 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] The 454th meeting of the Military Armistice Commission [MAC] is underway in Panmunjom at the proposal of our side.

At the meeting, Major General Choe Ui-ung, our side's senior delegate, is exposing and condemning the concrete wall which the South Korean puppets have built on the South side's area of the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists.

He pointed, first of all, to the new reunification proposal put forward by the great leader for removing barriers between the North and the South, for realizing free travel, and for fully opening the North and the South in order to overcome this year—the first year of the nineties—the barriers and difficulties laid on the road of national reunification. The proposal would effect a basic turning point in resolving the reunification question.

He continued: This proposal is a nationwide, realistic plan which reflects the aspirations for reunification of all the people—a plan to end the tragedy of national division and the concrete realities in our country. Today the peaceloving people of the world, not to mention all Korean people, ardently support and welcome this reunification proposal, and are looking forward to the historic day when the barriers of division are removed from Korea and free travel and full-scale openness are realized.

However, the splittists at home and abroad who do not want the reunification of Korea are attempting to block the way leading to reunification by all means. The enemies are scheming to mislead public opinion by putting forward preposterous gibberish about how there is no concrete wall in the South side's area of the MDL and about an antitank blockade and so forth.

Our side's senior delegate said that since the U.S. side was attempting to deceive world opinion by stating that there is no concrete wall in the South side's area of the MDL, I cannot but tell the truth at today's meeting. He then showed a video tape of the concrete wall, which was built by the U.S. imperialists by instigating the South Korean puppets in Paju, Yonchon, Cholwon, Inje, Yanggu and Kosong Counties, those that are close to the MDL. He also displayed a 10-meter-long picture showing the concrete walls built on the western, central and eastern frontline.

Our side's senior delegate said: As you saw from the video tape, the concrete wall built in the South side's area of the MDL extends over 600 ri from the West to the East, crossing the mountains, rivers and plains, and dividing this country.

Showing a picture of part of the concrete wall built in the western, the central and the eastern front, he asked how one can dare insist that there is no concrete wall, despite the fact that such a concrete wall is clearly built in the South side's area of the MDL.

Our side's senior delegate stated that our side has repeatedly demanded the suspension of the wall's construction, ever since the U.S. side began to build the concrete wall through the instigation of the South Korean authorities.

He continued: During meetings held many times in the past, including the 393d MAC meeting and the 395th meeting, we lodged a strong protest with the U.S. side against the building of the barriers of division and against dividing our country. We repeatedly demanded the suspension of their construction. However, the U.S. side has finally built the barriers of division along the entire area of the 600-ri-long MDL by goading the South Korean authorities, while adhering to the maneuvers for perpetuating two Koreas in defiance of just opinion and the world's denunciation.

Our side's senior delegate said that the fact that the concrete wall, which was built in the seventies, has not been removed and still remains now as we enter the nineties is a tragedy of history and a disgrace to our people.

He stressed that the criminal act of dividing the North and the South and making them confront each other after having completely cut off the blood of this homogeneous people, which has been inherited over several thousand years, by building an artificial concrete wall, which does not exist on the boundary of any other country, should be immediately ended.

Our side's senior delegate emphatically called on the U.S. side to take practical measures to immediately remove the concrete wall—a symbol of division and confrontation—in conformity with the demands of the times and the aspirations of our people.

The meeting continues.

Further on Meeting

SK0202054190 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0340 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] The 454th meeting of the Military Armistice Commission [MAC] is continuing at Panmunjom. At the meeting, Major General Choe Ui-ung, our side's senior member, showed videotaped testimonies by former South Korean soldiers who participated in building the concrete wall in the South side's area of the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] and said:

The concrete wall is not an antitank barrier but a wall of division and a wall of confrontation designed to divide the country and the nation forever and to incite confrontation between the North and the South. The very reason that motivated the South side to build the concrete wall shows this well.

When the 1970's began, the U.S. side took the path of fabricating two Koreas to hold South Korea permanently in its hands. Following this, the South Korean authorities suspended the North-South dialogue. Then, by a special declaration on 23 June 1973, they proclaimed a perpetual national division. This was a traitorous national sellout that was totally against the consistent expectations and yearnings of all North and South people who aspired to a North-South dialogue and the country's reunification.

To achieve their separatist policy, the South Korean authorities intensified the Yusin system internally. At the same time they attempted to push ahead externally with cross-recognition and simultaneous UN entry. Meanwhile, in North-South relations, they built the high concrete wall, attempting to legitimatize national division and obliterate the people's ardent desire for reunification. Former high-level persons in authority in South Korean have clearly testified to this.

Pak Chong-hui showed up at the construction site of the concrete wall in 1979 and incited national division and North-South confrontation, saying, "We cannot live with the North's communists. We do not care whether the nation is divided into two or three parts.

Chon Tu-hwan appeared before the officers participating in the construction of the concrete wall toward the end of June 1978. Chon, the then commander of the 1st Division, mentioned the purpose of building the wall, saying: It is designed to block the people's desire for reunification, their increased mood for reunification. We should build a high concrete wall so that those who desire reunification may totally lose those feelings and hopes for reunification.

Our side's senior member said that these facts clearly prove that the concrete wall was built only to perpetuate division and deepen confrontation. He then said that the concrete wall completely blocked the three railways, four large rivers, and some 150 large and small roads connecting the North and the South across Paju County, Yonchon County, Cholwon County, Inje County, Yanggu County, and Kosong County. He continued:

Because of this wall of division, the nation and its fellow countrymen cannot visit each other as they wish in their own country and in their own land, and the beloved parents, brethren, wives, and children do not know each other's whereabouts. It was because of this cursed concrete wall that Reverend Mun Ik-hwan and coed Yim Su-kyong had to detour additional thousands of miles to go to a place which is only a few hours away. It was because of this wall that coed Yim Su-kyong shouted in Panmunjom that she be allowed to pass so that she could return to her beloved parents and her dear fellow students.

This tragic situation in which one is tried and given heavy penalties only because one visited the North, the land of one's own country, and met the brethren in the North, the same nation, leads one to feel painfully anew how high and thick this wall of division is that separates the North and the South. Unless this wall of division and confrontation is removed, it is very clear that neither free visits, total openness, nor the reunification of the country can be realized.

Our side's senior member said that this is the very reason why the removal of the concrete wall becomes a priority issue between the North and the South that has to be resolved. He stressed that this is the very reason why the stance on this issue determines whether one pursues division and confrontation or desires dialogue and reunification. He noted that in order to realize free visits and total openness and to achieve reunification, the concrete wall—the symbol of North-South confrontation and national division—should be removed first, adding that raving about openness and reunification, as long as the concrete wall is left as it is, is nothing but empty talk.

However, the senior member of the U.S. side continues to absurdly deny the existence of the concrete wall south of the MDL. Our side's senior member is repeating a demand to the U.S. side that the two sides at the MAC take a short break and take a firsthand look at the concrete wall, together with the domestic and foreign reporters on hand in Panmunjom. The meeting continues.

Reporters Shown Video of 'Wall'

SK0202112790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1104 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Kaesong February 2 (KCNA)—At the 454th meeting of the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) held Friday at Panmunjom, our side fully exposed the concrete wall built in the area South of the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) through video-record and pictures of the wall, and strongly urged the enemy side to remove it at an early date.

Stressing that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song put forward a new reunification proposal to pull down the barrier between the North and the South and realize free travel and full-scale open door between the two parts this year, the first year of the 1990s, Major General Choe Ui-ung, senior member of our side, said: The entire Korean people and the world peaceloving people warmly welcome and support this reunification proposal.

Saying that fact must be made clear at today's meeting, since the U.S. side is trying to deceive the world public, as if there were no concrete wall in the area South of the MDL, the senior member of our side showed video-recorded scenes and pictures of the concrete wall built in Paju, Yonchon, Cholwon, Inje, Yanggu and Kosong counties adjacent to the MDL.

As the video-tape and pictures show, the concrete wall stretches along the entire length of the MDL from the West to the East, he said, asking: How can you dare say that there is no concrete wall?

It is too clear that without removing the concrete wall of division and confrontation, free travel or full open door can not be realized nor can the reunification of the country be achieved, he said, and stressed: Herein lies the reason why the problem of removing the concrete wall is an important matter which must be preferentially solved between the North and the South and why the attitude toward it shows whether one seeks division and confrontation or wants dialogue and reunification.

The U.S. side, while admitting that there is the concrete wall in the South side's area, offered a string of excuses to deny that it is a symbol of division and confrontation.

Strongly refuting the absurd assertion of the U.S. side, the senior member of our side repeatedly demanded the U.S. side that both senior members go out together with the home and foreign reporters present at Panmunjom to see at first hand how the concrete wall make a symbol of national division and confrontation.

But the U.S. side failed to respond to our demand.

The U.S. side does not respond to our demand because the concrete wall lying in the area South of the MDL is a symbol of division and confrontation, the senior member of our side said.

He said it is due to the United States that the concrete wall came into being in addition to the MDL.

Recalling that the United States did not spare financial and material "aid" to building the concrete wall, he pointed out that it threw 362.75 million dollars into South Korea in fiscal 1980 when the construction of the wall had entered the final stage.

The senior member of our side demanded that the U.S. side should be clearly aware of our people's will and give up the "two Koreas" policy and take a practical step to remove the concrete wall, the symbol of national division and North-South confrontation.

Pictures stretching 20 meters were on display and a video-tape was screened outside the conference room to show the concrete wall while the meeting was open.

After seeing the video-tape and pictures many home and foreign reporters from the South side, members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission and home and foreign reporters from our side said it is only too clear that there exists the concrete wall and found it hard to repress indignation at the splittists who had built the wall.

In the midst of the meeting, the senior member of our side sent a telephone message stating that our side would allow reporters of the South side present at Panmunjom to enter the area of our side across the Military Demarcation Line to inspect the concrete wall, a symbol of division and confrontation, and would ensure their safety, and urging the U.S. side to take a necessary step for this.

But the inspection of the concrete wall was not possible as the U.S. side refused to allow the passage across the MDL of home and foreign reporters of the South side present at Panmunjom.

NODONG SINMUN on 'Disgrace' of 'Wall'

SK0202105990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 2 Feb 90

["South Korean Puppets Cannot Conceal Their Crimes in Having Built Concrete Wall—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 2 (KCNA)—With the truth about the concrete wall exposed to the world, the South Korean puppets are now coming out with the nonsensical argument that what matters is the political barrier, not a physical barrier. This is a ridiculous self-contradictory jargon, a senseless sophism contrary to logic and, in fact, the admission of the existence of the concrete wall. The concrete wall is at once a political and a physical barrier.

NODONG SINMUN today says this in a signed article headlined "Crime in Having Built Concrete Wall Cannot be Concealed."

The South Korean ruling quarters claimed that "There is no concrete wall" in their area and now contend in a far-fetched manner that there is only an "anti-tank barricade", the author of the article says, and goes on:

The South Korean puppets had long ago built two or three metres high barricades enough to check the passage of tanks and armoured vehicles in all areas requiring them from the military point of view.

But they built the concrete wall five to eight metres in height, three to seven metres in upper width and 10 to 19 metres in bottom width along the whole length of the Military Demarcation Line, not only in the plain areas but also in the mountain areas not accessible to tanks and armoured vehicles and they built setups even across the rivers.

This notwithstanding, the puppets persistently refuse to tear down the wall, claiming that "There is no barrier". Why? First of all, they want to continue the policy of confrontation and division in the North-South relations, leaving the barrier as it is, and to suppress and stifle the people's struggle for independence, democracy and reunification and maintain the colonial dictatorial "regime" by clinging to fascist dictatorial politics and the policy of seclusion within South Korea. Externally, they seek to cover up their crimes in having built the barrier of confrontation and permanent division, going against the trend of the world swept by raging waves of independence.

All the facts clearly prove that the puppets are not inclined for opening and reunification and their outcries for "opening" and "unification" are a false advertisement to mislead public opinion.

The concrete wall, a symbol of confrontation and division and a disgrace to the nation, must be torn down.

No Tae-u's New Year Conference Denounced

SK2801232790 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0840 GMT 13 Jan 90

[NODONG SINMUN 13 January commentary: "Drama of Political Smear Wrought with Fraudulence, Falsehood and Deception"]

[Text] Traitor No Tae-u held a so-called New Year press conference at Chongwadae on 10 January. He made a lengthy statement for nearly 2 hours on economic issues, the issue of the North-South relations, northern policy, and security issues.

If the news conference was aimed at clarifying his convictions on the state affairs, he certainly should have made mention of practical issues which urgently await resolution including the issue of liquidating the Fifth Republic which was put forward as an acute political issue to be discussed in South Korea, and the issue of removing the barriers between the North and the South which emerged as a burning question to be solved with priority for reunification.

However, No Tae-u excluded all such important issues and merely played on words by putting forward only secondary issues.

In short, his New Year press conference ignored the demand of the South Korean people and the earnest aspiration of the nation for reunification. It was nothing

but a drama of political smear which was wrought with shameless falsehood, deception, hypocrisy, and distortion of truth.

What he mentioned with emphasis regarding internal issues of South Korea was the economic issue. The puppet traitor said with exaggeration that the South Korean economy today is undergoing enormous difficulties and pains. He sounded as if its cause is workers' strikes and struggles for wage increases, thus distorting the truth. He then threatened that he will resolutely cope with them.

As for the serious crisis which the South Korean economy is suffering, it is an unavoidable pain of the colonial subordinate economy and an inevitable outcome of the nation-selling, treacherous economic policy of the puppets.

It is none other than the puppets themselves who handed over the life of the South Korean economy to the avaricious U.S. and Japanese monopolistic capitalists through reckless inducement of foreign capital and treacherous open-market policy. The ringleaders who even further squeezed the windpipe of the staggering South Korean economy by extra-large scale irregularities and corruption are none other than the puppets.

The ringleaders who severely spoiled the economy instead condemned the workers who suffered the damage. This is indeed eternal shame. It is quite natural for the South Korean workers, who are deprived of even the three basic labor rights and who are suffering the worst hardship and lowest wage in the world, to rise in the struggle for a life worthy of mankind. They should by no means be subjects of oppression at gunpoint.

That the traitor No Tae-u attempted to shift the responsibility for the economic crisis onto the workers was prompted by a vicious fascist plan to conceal his crime of driving the economy into bankruptcy and deteriorating the people's living conditions and to oppress at gunpoint the workers' advances for existence.

In order to conceal his wicked plans, No Tae-u put forward deceitful pledges for social welfare including the areas of education, science, technology, environment, and traffic, as well as ensurance of security for people's life.

The puppets made numerous pledges to the people, including the 29 June pledge, election pledges, and pledge for implementing policies. However, nothing has been achieved.

As the South Korean people themselves say, the pledge for democratization ended up with the fascist political climate dominated by security affairs and the pledge for employment ended up with causing more jobless people than the Fifth Republic era. The pledge of solving the housing problems ended up demolishing the shacks possessed by the poor people on the pretext of urban beautification, thus driving the poor into secluded areas.

The puppets made a tributary payment of some $2 billion every year to the U.S. imperialist aggression troops as their cost to maintain the troops from the state treasury made available from the people's blood and sweat and lavishly spent money on building up a military force and suppressive forces, but did not take any measures to improve the people's lives in destitution, further driving the lives of the working popular masses into misery.

The South Korean people have been deceived by the puppets' vain promises so much that they can hardly believe anything the puppets say. No Tae-u's promise for social welfare is nothing but a false promise aimed at calming down the people's complaints and resistance to their nation-selling and traitorous economic and social policies and taking credit for the promise.

The remarks by No Tae-u on the issue of North-South relations should be subjected to further criticism at home and abroad. It is well known to the world that we put forward an epochal save-the-nation proposal early this year to pull down the wall of division between the North and the South and to realize free visits and total openness. However, No Tae-u completely turned away from the issue of removing the concrete wall—the core of our proposal—without mentioning a word about it, pretending to welcome the free visits and total openness, as he was not in a position of totally rejecting our just and reasonable save-the-nation plan and negotiation proposal, afraid of the opinion at home and abroad. He did not reply to the issue of convening a consultative meeting between authorities in the highest levels and the heads of political parties of the North and the South but came up again with the talks of the highest-level leaders which they have raved about so far. This shows that he was scared of our new save-the-nation plan and avoided accepting it.

The concrete wall which the South Korean puppets have built, with backing by the U.S. imperialists, in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] from the east to the west is a wall of division that splits the land of the country in two and cuts the back of the nation, the symbol of division and confrontation, and the wall of iron harder than a national border. Unless this artificial blocking structure [chadanmul] is removed, neither free visits nor total openness will be possible, nor will it be possible to advance even one step toward reunification.

If No Tae-u had the intention of instituting free visits and total openness between the North and the South, why was he afraid of even mentioning concrete wall and assumed an attitude of completely turning away from it? We recommend that, before anything else, No Tae-u first make his position clear about pulling down the concrete wall, the obstacle to visits, openness, and reunification, if he has any desire to realize the free visits and total openness between the North and the South.

As for the talks between the highest persons in authority of the North and the South, they can be realized within

the framework of the consultative meeting between the authorities, participated in by the highest levels of the North and the South, and the heads of political parties which we proposed.

No Tae-u on that day enumerated the visits by displaced families, the formation of a single sports team, the signing of a passage and communications agreement, the joint development of tourist resources, including that of Mt. Kumgang, and the exchange of goods, but there was nothing new, and it was nothing but a repetition of listing the two Koreas tactics, which they had put forward before, based on a step-by-step theory.

As for the issue of the displaced families and of forming a single sports team, which he mentioned, it is well known to the world that the prospects of these are not bright because of the unjust attitude of the South side despite the fact that we made the utmost sincere efforts and concession in the working delegates' contacts between the North-South Red Cross organizations and in the North-South sports talks.

As for the issue of the joint development of Mt. Kumgang, agreement has already been reached between the civilian levels of the North and the South, but it has not been solved because the South Korean authorities frantically engaged in the anticommunist fascistization maneuvers and blocked its realization.

What should not be overlooked is that No Tae-u, treating us like a foreign country and a foreign people babbling about an agreement on travels and communication and on exchange of material, sees North-South relations only in terms of exchange on the basis of two Koreas. To insist on signing any agreement between the consanguineous people is in itself unspeakable. His idea about the so-called agreement on travels and communication is nothing more than the articulation of a closed-door policy to allow a limited number of people, favorable to him, to travel within the framework of a sole channel for dialogue and keep the door of free travels closed for people of all walks of life.

All told, this is the expression of an idea of coexistence as two Koreas while promoting human and material exchanges just like the ones that countries promote among themselves. This is an insult to all the people who long for national reunification, feeling as if one day was several years and a challenge to the general trends moving toward reunification.

No Tae-u also said that he would push ahead substantively with northern policy. If the people in authority in South Korea really welcome free travel and complete opening between the North and South and hope for peaceful reunification of the country, they should abandon the northern policy of pursuing cross recognition and an admission into the United Nations and take the practical step of allowing indiscriminate travel and unrestricted contacts between the North and South and free debates on reunification issues, instead of insisting on a sole channel for dialogue.

Traitor No Tae-u's treacherous and splittist policy is clearly expressed in his babbling about the need to maintain a firm cooperative system on security with the United States and in his more vicious and sinister attitude toward North-South relations by provoking us. His babbling as such is an expression of his filthy toadyst, treacherous disposition to make his fellow countrymen fall victim to nuclear war by continually entrusting South Korea to the U.S. imperialists as an aggressive military base and a nuclear combat base and to stay in dictatorial power longer under the protection of his masters.

It is ridiculous that No Tae-u staged a farce of painting a U.S. plan for scaling down the "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercise, a decision the fiscal deficits has forced the United States to adopt, as if it were a measure it has taken on his own initiative for North-South dialogue and for easing tension on the Korean peninsula.

According to an official announcement, however, the actual running period of the "Team Spirit-90," in which some 180,000 U.S. troops and puppet army troops are to participate this year again, will be for 2 weeks beginning in mid-March. This indicates that there will be no change at all as far as the period and substance of the exercise are concerned except a small reduction in the size of troops participating in the joint exercise.

If the United States and the persons in authority in South Korea genuinely hope for the relaxation of tension on the Korean peninsula and its peaceful reunification, they should completely discontinue the "Team Spirit-90" joint exercise instead of reducing its size a little and take the path of completely withdrawing U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea, instead of trying to maintain the aggressive cooperative system on security.

Simply put, No Tae-u's New Year press conference contained no new words or a word worth heeding. Rather, it was nothing more than a staging of a clumsy political mechanical drama designed to camouflage fascist, treacherous, confrontational, and splittist policy with falsity and hypocrisy.

The No Tae-u ring, facing a serious crisis in its rule in the face of a national spirit for reunification which is surging forward to the point where it is impossible to stop and the rising spirit of the South Korean people's anti-U.S. and antifascist struggle, is now trying to turn back the general trends through a double-dealing tactic of suppression resorted to bayonet and deception based on appeasement to no avail.

Independence, democracy, and reunification are the unanimous aspirations of the South Korean people. It is not the traitorous fascist and splittist forces, but the patriotic and democratic forces, namely the popular masses in the South, that take the lead in developing the political situation in South Korea.

No persevering maneuvers on the part of the fascist and splittist forces can stop or reverse this roaring stream of history.

Gregg-DJP Chairman Meeting Criticized

SK0202073090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0529 GMT 2 Feb 90

["NODONG SINMUN lambastes U.S. Imperialists, Backstage Manipulator of Three-Party Merger"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 2 (KCNA)—U.S. Ambassador to South Korea [Donald] Gregg met the "chairman of the Democratic Justice Party" and told him that he thought political restructuring is rather inevitable in view of the political situation in South Korea.

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN Friday says that the support of this governor general in the colony to the "political restructuring" through the merger of three parties—the "Democratic Justice Party", the "Reunification Democratic Party" and the "New Democratic Republican Party"—now under way in South Korea disclosed that its backstage manipulator is none other than the United States.

The news analyst notes:

To maintain pro-American military fascist dictatorship in South Korea is a requirement of the Korean policy of the U.S. imperialists for aggression.

It was the United States which rigged up the "Sixth Republic" dictatorial "regime" of the No Tae-u clique by means of splitting the democratic forces when the forces for independence, democracy and reunification were rapidly growing in strength in South Korea after the June democratic resistance. And the United States was the backstage manipulator who preached "ruling-opposition compromise" through "a grand conservative coalition" when an unstable political situation of "the weak ruling party and the strong opposition" was created as a result of the "National Assembly Elections" in April 1988 and, at last, led to the unilateral clinching of the problem of "liquidation of the Fifth Republic legacies" through a "grand ruling-opposition compromise" toward the end of last year.

The on-going "political restructuring" through the merger of three parties in South Korea is a product of the crisis of the colonial military fascist rule of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u group, it is one more political coup to maintain and prolong the military fascist rule by bringing together ultra-rightist reactionary forces.

The U.S. imperialists and the No clique are planning to put down the forces for nation, democracy and reunification by the allied forces of the ultra-rightist reactionaries and achieve "the stability of the political situation" and build a structure for long-term office of one party solo after the "political restructuring". But the developments in South Korea indicate that their attempt can not be realized easily. Only when the U.S. imperialists take their hands of interference off South Korea can the way be paved for the socio-political development and political stabilization realized.

'Team Spirit 90' Aerial Maneuvers Denounced

SK0102234890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2236 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 1 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors on January 30 staged again a war game against the North as part of the "Team Spirit 90" manouevres by bringing assault planes and AWACs into South Korea from their aggression bases in Japan and other countries, according to a military source.

Between 11:00 and 19:00 that day, they brought (?formations) of Iwakuni [words indistinct] assault planes "A-4" and "A-6" to South Korea and let them fly day and night in the sky above the Military Demarcation Line premeditatedly on a frantic aerial war exercise of a surprise attack on important targets in the coastal and inland areas of the northern half of Korea, thus creating an atmosphere of war.

In order to bring the game closer to a real war, they hurled an Okinawa-based "E-3" AWAC into it.

In addition, they kicked up a row, introducing in succession into the airforce bases of the U.S. imperialist aggression Army in South Korea formations of "C-130" and "C-141" transport planes loaded with aggression forces and operational equipment from the Pacific overseas aggression bases between 12:00 and 18:00 January 31 when they were making haste with the preparations for the "Team Spirit 90" war game.

Similar racket was also made on January 30.

The daily undisguised war rackets of the U.S. imperialists clearly show that they are rushing headlong towards confrontation and war.

U.S. 'Shameless Scheme' Against Cuba Condemned

SK0202101790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1001 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 2 (KCNA)—Chong Ha-chol, chairman of the radio and TV broadcasting committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in a statement today bitterly condemned the shameless scheme of the United States to start television broadcasting and its aggressive military exercises against Cuba as a high-handed interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state and a criminal act of destroying the publicly recognised norms of international relations and order and gravely menacing peace and security in Central America and the rest of the world.

Recalling that the United States set up an anti-Cuban TV station in its mainland and announced that the trial broadcasting will soon begin, started naval exercises against Cuba and committed such piracy as firing at a Cuban-flagged cargo vessel, he said:

All this shows that the United States is directing the sharp edge of its attack to Cuba after occupying Panama by force of arms.

The anti-Cuba moves of the U.S. imperialists are chiefly aimed at stifling Cuba which has a great revolutionary influence on the western hemisphere, advancing under the banner of socialism.

The U.S. imperialists' acts of interference and threat against Cuba these days are a continuation of their anti-Cuban aggression and interference for more than 30 years.

They set up anti-Cuba radio broadcasting station yesterday and today installed a TV station against Cuba to launch an anti-Cuban propaganda campaign.

We strongly demand that the U.S. imperialists immediately stop meddling in the internal affairs of Cuba and give up the scheme of anti-Cuban TV broadcasting.

The Korean people extend full support and solidarity to the struggle of the heroic Cuban people who are dynamically pushing ahead with the revolution and construction along the road of socialism, smashing the unending moves of interference and aggression of the United States.

The U.S. imperialists invaded the Republic of Panama, a sovereign state, with force of arms and continue interfering in the internal affairs of Nicaragua.

All these facts show that the United States is the very one destroying peace and security in Central America and violating international order.

If the U.S. imperialists continue to resort to the adventurous moves against Cuba, they will face bitterer condemnation and rejection of the world people.

Kim Yong-nam Sends Letter to Cuban Counterpart

SK0202114690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1116 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 2 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-nam, foreign minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, today in a letter of solidarity to Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, foreign minister of the Republic of Cuba, denounces the anti-Cuba campaign of the U.S. Imperialists and expresses firm support to and solidarity with the heroic Cuban people's struggle.

The letter says:

We keenly watch the ever more undisguised anti-Cuba campaign of the U.S. imperialists and express deep concern about it.

Synchronizing with the start of the anti-Cuba TV trial broadcasting, the U.S. imperialists are committing such provocations as sending a destroyer and an amphibious assault warship to their Guantanamo naval base and letting different types of warships including a nuclear-powered missile cruiser manoeuvre in waters around Cuba.

All this shows that U.S. imperialists' moves to strangle the Cuban revolution have entered a very grave stage.

I bitterly denounce their provocative acts against Cuba as a gross interference in the sovereignty and internal affairs of your country and as a crime of violating the publicly recognized international telecommunication conventions and gravely threatening peace and security in Central America and the world and extend firm support to and solidarity with the heroic Cuban people in their struggle to check and frustrate them.

No matter how desperately the U.S. imperialists may try, they cannot block the triumphant advance of the Cuban people who are holding fast to the banner of socialism and the principle of revolution in the Western hemisphere.

The Korean people are firmly convinced that the heroic Cuban people will certainly win victory in their sacred struggle to defend the sovereignty of the country.

MINJU CHOSON on U.S.-Japanese Exercises

SK0202055890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0536 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 2 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON today comments on the U.S.-Japan joint winter military exercise now being staged in Hokkaido as part of preparations for a war. It shows that the U.S. and Japanese reactionaries are still racing along the road of aggression and war, the news analyst says, adding:

The U.S. imperialists and the Japanese reactionaries are holding a joint war game in Hokkaido, Japan, similar to Korea in terrain and climatic conditions, to coincide with the proclamation of the "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercises, provocative nuclear manoeuvres. This is aimed at attacking our country and other socialist countries.

We can not remain indifferent to the manoeuvres.

The U.S. imperialists and the Japanese authorities never let a chance pass by without crying for "peace" and "detente," talking glibly about "disarmament". But, in fact, they are getting more feverish in arms buildup and war preparations.

This is clear from the fact that the United States answered the DPRK's new epochal proposal to pull down the barrier of division and realize free travel and a full-scale open door between the North and South reflecting the desire of the entire nation for reunification and their urgent demand with the announcement of the

provocative "Team Spirit-90" plan and from the military exercises held recently in South Korea.

Such moves of the U.S. and Japanese reactionaries are a grave challenge to the desire of the world peaceloving people who are struggling for peace, independence and friendship.

The U.S. imperialists and the Japanese authorities should not confine themselves to words about "peace" and "detente" but carry them into practical deeds.

WPK Greets Vietnamese Communist Party

SK0202111190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 2 (KCNA)—The Central Committee [CC] of the Workers' Party of Korea sent a message of greetings to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam on the 60th anniversary of its founding.

The message recalled that the Communist Party of Vietnam won the victory of the August revolution and founded a people's democratic state by vigorously mobilizing the Vietnamese working class and people in the struggle against the colonial rule of foreign imperialists and achieved the complete liberation and reunification of the country by waging an arduous anti-U.S. national salvation struggle for a long time.

The Vietnamese people, it said, have made great strides ahead in the struggle to build socialism successfully, firmly United Around the CC, the Vietnamese communist party headed by Comrade Nguyen Van Linh.

Believing that the friendly and cooperative relations between the parties and peoples of the two countries will grow stronger and develop, the message wished the communist party and people of Vietnam greater achievements in their struggle for the victory of the cause of socialism and communism.

Kim Il-song Message to Burkina Faso Leader

SK0202053690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0510 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 2 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a message to Blaise Compaore, head of state, head of government and chairman of the People's Front of Burkina Faso, in reply to his solidarity message supporting the new proposal for national reunification.

The reply expressed thanks for his solidarity message supporting the new proposal for the settlement of the country's reunification question advanced in the new year address for this year.

Saying that the Korean people value the support and solidarity of the Burkina people and the people's front, their political leadership, it expressed the belief that the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation existing between the two countries will grow stronger and develop.

Ministers of Coal, Mining Industries Appointed

SK0102231290 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Decree of the DPRK Central People's Committee]

[Text] On the appointment of ministers of the DPRK State Administration Council:

1. The DPRK Central People's Committee appoints Comrade Kim Yi-kyong the minister of Coal Industry [soktan kongoppu] of the State Administration Council.

2. The DPRK Central People's Committee appoints Comrade Kim Pil-hwan the Minister of Mining Industry [kwangoppu] of the State Administration Council.

[Signed] Kim Il-song, president of the DPRK
[Dated] 30 January 1990, Pyongyang

Further on Kim Il-song's 1958 Speech

SK0202110990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 2 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN Friday comes out with a signed article titled "It is Great Honor For Our Young People to Play Role of Vanguard and Shock Brigade in the Building of Socialism," which reads in part:

The great leader President Kim Il-song gave comprehensive answers to all the questions of principle in enhancing the role of young people as the vanguagd and shock brigade in the building of socialism in his speech at the national meeting of young builders of socialism in March, 1958, "On the Tasks of the Youth in the Building of Socialism".

President Kim Il-song said:

"The young people should become the most dependable workers of our party in the revolutionary struggle and staunch builders of socialism.

"Today no honour is greater than that of being a socialist builder, and nothing is more worthwhile than dedicating all youthful enthusiasm, wisdom and ability to the socialist construction of the country."

The young people should play the role of vanguard and shock brigade in the building of socialism because it is an indispensable demand of their position and role in the revolution and construction.

Our young men and women actively take upon themselves difficult and toilsome work in economic construction, performing brilliant feats, as the vanguard and shock brigade in the building of socialism.

The proud spirit and traits of our young people who accomplish shining feats in the difficult and toilsome work of economic construction are given fuller play in the struggle for great socialist construction under the wise leadership of our party.

Our young men and women are massively participating in the construction of new factories, power stations and railway lines, in the reclamation of tideland and in the construction of barrages cities and erected great edifices by conducting a powerful youth shock brigade movement.

They have now become the standard-bearer of struggle and vanguard of innovation in bringing about a great upswing in socialist construction by increasing production and practising maximum economy, and making the existing economic foundations pay off, in hearty response to the militant call of the party.

Our young people stand in the forefront in the technical revolution, too.

They are energetically striving to acquire latest achievements of sciences and technologies, master the technologies in their domains, and constantly improve their skill in response to the slogan of the party "youth is the Master of New Technologies!" And greatly contribute to developing the country's sciences and technologies and making the national economy chuche-orientated, modernized and scientized.

Their features in playing the role of the vanguard and shock brigade in socialist construction are unthinkable apart from their socialist patriotism.

Our youth cherish as an unshakable faith the idea that our party and leader are great and our socialist system is superior, boundlessly revere and follow the party and the leader, ardently love the socialist fatherland with a high national pride and confidence and devotedly work for its prosperity and development.

The noble spirit of socialist patriotism possessed by our young men and women is fully displayed in accomplishing their revolutionary tasks in a responsible manner and managing the country's economy life with the attitude of masters and assiduously building their streets, villages, factories and work sites.

To remould the thinking and consciousness of the working people and carry out the cultural revolution is an important task of the young people to display the honor of the vanguard and shock brigade in socialist construction.

Today our young people are actively taking part in the three-revolution team movement and the three-revolution red flag movement and creating a new brilliant history of transforming ideology, technique and culture as required by the chuche and playing a great role in realizing the policy of intellectualizing the whole society.

Power Stations 'Under Brisk Construction'

SK0102231090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1459 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 1 (KCNA)—Minor power stations as well as large ones are under brisk construction throughout Korea.

A drive to build some 500 minor power stations this year on the basis of the experiences in having constructed 450 minor power stations in different parts of the country last year is gaining momentum from the beginning of the year.

The newly built minor power stations using water sources abundant in the relevant local areas have their share in satisfying the growing demand for electricity.

More than 80 units in South Hamgyong Pronvince including local industry factories in Yodok, Hochon and Pujon counties went over to the production system by electricity of the minor power stations.

In Yanggang Province minor power stations are being built to suit the geological conditions of the province which has many rivers, big and small. Taehongdan and other counties are running local industry factories and providing residential quarters with the electricity produced by themselves.

Meanwhile, minor power stations are being built in South Pyongan, Chagang and Kangwon Provinces and other provinces, cities and counties. Many counties have fully met the demand for electricity at industrial factories and residential quarters by themselves.

Kim Yu-sun Speaks at Sports Games Opening

SK0102225790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1519 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 1 (KCNA)—The opening ceremony of the sports games for "Paektusan Prize" was held at the volleyball gymnasium in Chongchun Street on February 1.

It is the sports contests biggest in scale which has been held regularly in February every year from 1977 to develop sports technique to a higher stage.

Speaking at the ceremony, Kim Yu-sun, chairman of the State Sports Committee, stressed that the sportsmen should consolidate their successes last year and develop sports technique still higher.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il has ushered in a great heyday in our sports by advancing a unique idea to effect an epochal turn in sports and wisely leading the efforts for its realisation, he said, and added:

Today the sportsmen are facing the honourable tasks to enhance the technique in all sports events to the world level at an early date by thoroughly implementing the

party's policy of sports and, for the present, to prove successful at various contests including the 11th Asian Games slated for this year.

The sports games will continue till the end of February in Pyongyang, Nampo, Sinuiju, Chongjin, Wonsan, and other places.

The participants will compete in more than 20 events such as basketball, volleyball, table tennis, boxing, weightlifting, wrestling, judo, Korean traditional wrestling, gymnastics, rhythmic dance, water polo, and speed skating.

Light Industrial Production Increases Noted

SK0102235890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 1 (KCNA)—Factories and enterprises serving light industry throughout the country are maintaining a high and steady rate of production by making effective use of the already laid foundation of light industry.

The Pyongyang Vinyl Chloride Footwear Factory and the Pyongyang Shoe-making Factory are now doubling the daily output of various kinds of shoes as against the comparable time last year.

The Hamhung Vinyl Chloride Footwear Factory has boosted the daily output 26 percent above that toward the end of last year.

Having beaten their January target, the Sakju and Supung Textile Mills are expanding the achievements.

The Songsin Daily Necessities Factory in Pyongyang is carrying out at 120 percent its daily quotas which are 50 percent above last year's.

The factories under the South Pyongan Provincial General Bureau of Light Industry are maintaining production on a high level by modernising the production processes. The Mundok Paper Mill, for example, has trebled production while saving 25 percent of caustic soda by introducing a new technical innovation proposal.

The Sinuiju Textile Mill, the Sinuiju Footwear Factory and other light industrial factories in Sinuiju are producing ever larger quantities of quality consumer goods.

The factories under the Ministry of Chemical Industry are augmenting production to supply sufficient raw and other materials to light industrial factories.

The Chongjin Chemical Fibre Complex has lifted the daily output of chemical fibre 30 percent up on the like period of last year by applying valuable technical innovation proposals to production.

South Korea

Concrete Budget Should Back Up Bush's 'Vision'

SK0202021490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 2 Feb 90 p 8

[Editorial: "Bush's State of Union"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush delivered his first State of the Union address to Congress in Washington yesterday. A joint session of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate heard the annual ritual symbolic of American democracy, characterizing the checks and balances between the executive and the legislative branches.

Bush's State of the Union was received as exemplifying a new style that is more flowery and rhetorical than specific and earthy. The address Bush labeled the state of the union, rather than the state of the government, concentrated on his general philosophy of "a kinder, gentler nation," while emphasizing his determination to honor overseas commitments and pursue broader detente with the Soviet Union at the same time.

Reviewing events of the year just ended, including the opening of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of dictatorial Communist governments across Eastern Europe, which he called the revolution of 1989, President Bush hailed the beginning of a new era in world affairs and proposed new and deeper cuts in U.S. and Soviet troop levels in Europe.

He said the superpowers should reduce troop levels in Central Europe to 195,000 on each side. He went much further than his earlier proposal made last May that the United States and the Soviet Union trim troop levels in Europe to 275,000.

This kind of attitude President Bush took in phoning Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to good relations with Moscow. But Bush saw a need for continued modernization of the U.S. nuclear arsenal. It is based on his view that although the Soviet military threat in Europe and elsewhere is diminishing, there has been little change in Soviet strategic modernization. Bush's resistance to major slashes in defense spending in the face of congressional pressure for cuts can be justified on that account.

It is good to foster new friendly relations with the Soviet Union and its allies, to endorse and encourage their internal liberalization and economic recovery. However, the cause of peace, given the yet uncertain and fluid situation, can best be served by a strong America and its free allies.

The State of the Union address announced that U.S. invasion forces would be withdrawan from Panama by the end of February to normalize the situation there. Bush touched on domestic issues in a rather cursory manner, calling for greater emphasis on excellence in education, a clean environment, drug-free communities and a sound federal budget.

His bid to present a vision for this period of great transition and hope should be backed up by a concrete budget message and foreign policy report for the realization of the common goals of the United States and its friends and partners.

Defense Told To Prepare for U.S. 'Withdrawal'

SK0202023090 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 2 Feb 90 p 2

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun yesterday instructed Defense Minister Yi Sang-hun to do his utmost to reinforce the power of the Korean armed forces in preparation for the planned withdrawal of some U.S. troops from Korea.

During a cabinet meeting, he also told Yi to make clear there will be no big changes in the defense capability of the nation even if some U.S. air bases are closed.

He said the U.S. decision to close three air bases was not based on a weakened security commitment to Korea but was made as part of the U.S. government's plan to rearrange its bases in and outside the country, which became inevitable because of increasing budget deficits and the prevailing mood of detente in the world.

However, he said, some people may feel insecure at the news because of expanding leftist forces in the country.

"The Defense Ministry should take over the arms system of the U.S. forces and their role carefully in order to prevent any possible negative impact on the nation's defense power," the prime minister said. [passage omitted]

454th MAC Meeting at Panmunjom Reported

SK0202112890 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 1000 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] The 454th full-dress meeting of the Military Armistice Commission was held in a conference room at Panmunjom at 1100 this morning.

In today's meeting held upon the request from the communist side, Maj Gen Choe Ui-ung, senior member of the North Korean side, asked why the concrete wall, a symbol of national division and confrontation, is not being pulled down. Showing a photgraph of it, he repeated what he asserted at the last meeting.

In response, our side explained that the concrete wall [pyok] built outside the Demilitarized Zone is not a symbol of division and confrontation, but only anti-tank barriers and that it is rather the North Korean side that has erected high-voltage electric fences and a wall inside the Demilitarized Zone and showed a video tape as evidence.

Possible North-South Disarmament Talks Viewed

SK0202031390 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 1 Feb 90 p 9

[Article: "The North May Step Up Its Call for a Complete Withdrawal of U.S. Troops—The Possibility of North-South Disarmament Talks"]

[Text] The reduction of the U.S. troops in the ROK has further increased the possibility of North-South disarmament negotiations. In the short run, the arms buildup on the part of the ROK to make up for the gap created by the reduction of the U.S. troops in the ROK and the North's action to counter such ROK moves are anticipated, but in the long run, it seems inevitable that both sides will have to engage in disarmament talks.

The possibility of North-South disarmament talks is related to the worldwide atmosphere for a new detente. In particular, the mood of a thaw between the two super-powers, the United States and the Soviet Union, will affect the situation on the Korean peninsula in one way or another. The economic difficulties, which both North and South Korea have as a result of excessive military spending, makes arms reduction a practical requirement. Above all, the closure of a few U.S. Air Force bases in the ROK and the recently announced reduction of U.S. troops are to be taken per se to be a unilateral arms reduction, and this becomes a means to pressure North Korea to take corresponding steps as well.

If the phased withdrawal of the U.S. troops is taken as a unilateral arms reduction, the first sign of this step must have been Gaston Sigur's visit to North Korea in October last year. As soon as he stepped down from the post as U.S. assistant secretary of state, Sigur visited North Korea for one week, met with many high-ranking figures of North Korea, and flew to Seoul to explain the results of his trip. The visit to North Korea by Sigur, who was, in fact, in charge of the U.S. policy for the Korean peninsula for the 8 years of the Reagan administration, was interpreted to be a sign of a change in the U.S. policy to North Korea, and was analyzed to be proof that the United States was seriously considering a change in the status of the U.S. troops in the ROK, the pending issue between the United States and North Korea. This analysis has turned out to be true, given the reduction of the U.S. Air Force.

Another indicator that predicts the possibility of arms reduction is found in the history of relations between the ROK and the Soviet Union, and the relations between the United States and North Korea. The relations between each of these two pairs of countries moved in parallel; in other words, to the same extent that the ROK-USSR relations turned distant, the U.S.-North Korean relations became distant, and vice versa. However, the speed of the improvement of relations between the ROK and the Soviet Union these days seems to be far exceeding that between the United States and North Korea. Sooner or later, the relations between the United

States and North Korea are likely to improve, and if this happens, North Korea may want to give proof of its desire to abandon provocation on the Korean peninsula.

In order to cope with this situation, the Defense Ministry set up an arms control office 1 year ago in its headquarters and has been reviewing various arms control measures. An atmosphere for disarmament has been created by the overall situation in Northeast Asia and by the security situation on the Korean peninsula. However, the ultimate negotiations and agreement will have to be made between the parties concerned. The Defense Ministry officials, therefore, say that hasty inferences and expectations in regard to disarmament are undesirable. One of them stated: We would like to call attention to the fact that more than 20 years had to pass between the time the disarmament talks for conventional weapons began in Europe and the time of their conclusion.

The ongoing North-South talks similar in nature to disarmament talks are the preliminary talks for high-level talks between the authorities of the North and the South. The proposals made by our side at these talks for confidence building in military fields were: to set up a hot line; to inform the other side of military exercises and to invite observation; to have mutual visits by military figures; to turn the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ] into a real demilitarized zone and peace zone.

Meanwhile, the proposals made by North Korea, to bring an end to military confrontation, as they put it, were: to set up a hot line; to halt large-scale military exercises (referring to the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises); to halt military activities in the DMZ; to demilitarize the DMZ. As one can see from the proposals made by the two sides, the contents of the proposals are not very different, but the problem is that because of the lack of trust between the two sides and because of political reasons, no substantive progress has been made. However, now that a commitment has been made for the withdrawal of the U.S. troops, which has been the major reason for the North side to reject dialogue, the likelihood of the initiation of disarmament talks is higher than ever.

Editorial on Single Inter-Korean Sports Team

SK0202041590 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 31 Jan 90 p 3

[Editorial: "Last Hill of the North-South Sports Talks"]

[Text] With the failure of any success in the eighth full-dress North-South sports talks on 29 January except for deciding on 7 February as the date of the next ninth talks, the possibility has become high that the North-South sports talks themselves will end without achieving any agreement only after repeated bickering and a contest of strength. Since the first round of the working level contact for North-South sports talks on 9 March last year, the two sides have reached an agreement only on the 10-point basic items, including the song, flag, and name of the single team; the method of selecting the players; and the joint organization for operating the single team. However, regrettably, today when the Beijing Asian Games are only seven months or so away we can still see no bright prospect even in drafting written agreements. This fact further increases our sufferings of national division.

The formation of a single team will, among others, make greater contribution to surmounting national division and to recovering national homogeneity. This was why our 70 million people and our two million compatriots residing in China were enthusiastic with the sports talks. If such ardent desire and expectation of the nation are frustrated simply because of differences in view on insignificant and trivial matters, we cannot but doubt if the regimes in the North and South really have the will of reunification.

The formation of a single team should become the firm stepping-stones to unify the divided nation into one and should not be utilized for the political aim of the regimes of the North and South. Therefore, unless the regimes of the North and South renounce such a wrong way of thinking, the ongoing North-South sports talks, as well, will be destined to meet a rupture.

However, we can by no means give up our expectation that the North and South will form a single team and join together in the stadium in Beijing under a single flag. The Seoul Olympics were a festival in which one side of the national community was excluded. In this sense, we regard the Seoul Olympics as a failure. Therefore, we should not repeat such a mistake committed in the Seoul Olympics in Beijing.

We want the North side to materialize in the next talks the spirit in which it proposed the formation of a single team between the North and South in December 1988 to "demonstrate to the world our nation's will of national reunification and to achieve national reconciliation and unity." The South side, too, should put into practice its will to achieve reconciliation and cooperation between the North and South as indicated in the "7 July Declaration" and as declared in President No's New Year press conferences in the past.

The 11th Asian Games are to be held in September this year. However, the closing date for the players' registration with the Organizing Committee of the games is before September. Therefore, we do not have much time. If the North and South proceed from the stand of attaching great significance to the participation in the games as a single team, without clinging to players' results in the events in the games, the ongoing sports talks will reach an agreement.

We think that only when the North and South alike make concessions and renounce their unrealistic assertions and demands can the ongoing sports talks reach a final agreement.

Reportage on Political Parties' Restructuring

New Ruling Party Format

SK0202115190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0628 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 2 (YONHAP)—The most powerful figure in South Korea's giant new ruling party will be the party president, but a troika of leaders will share control until May.

The 15-member committee preparing for the merger of the government party and two moderate opposition groups met Friday to discuss the leadership system and other aspects of the alliance, tentatively dubbed the Democratic Liberal Party.

A committee member said, "before the inauguration convention in May, a collective leadership of three leaders will run the new party under its founding charter. But the charter will be revised in the convention to adopt a single leadership system."

The three leaders are President No Tae-u, Kim Yong-sam, head of the just-disbanded Reunification Democratic Party, and Kim Chong-pil, head of the new Democratic Republican Party, due to be dissolved on Feb. 5.

Details of the post-convention leadership format are still undecided since No and Kim Yong-sam disagree on the system and function of the party leadership.

The presumed scenario has a party president and a chairman to govern party affairs in consultation with other supreme council members.

The difference is in the perception of the roles of the party president, likely to be No, and the party chairman, to be Kim Yong-sam, and over who should be in charge of party affairs.

The committee met to arrange talks on details of the new party Saturday between No and the Kims, their first get-together since they jointly announced the surprise plan on Jan. 22.

There were confusing reports and allegations on the leadership format, reflecting a burgeoning power struggle among different factions of the mega-party since the format and roles of the three leaders are closely intertwined with their and their followers' political futures.

Kim Yong-sam's group hopes No will join the party as its symbolic head, devoting himself to state affairs, but No's men oppose this idea.

The committee member, on condition of anonymity, said the panel is considering a system of appointing senior officials in which they are designated by the party president but the chairman recommends them to the president after consultation with council members.

The committee, composed of key figures from the three parties, has agreed in principle to create the title "chairman of the party and government policy coordination committee" in addition to secretary-general, floor leader and chief policy-maker.

The platform of the new party will place emphasis on three planks—reunification of the Korean peninsula, reconciliation of the whole nation and improvement of liberty and well-being.

The three parties will have a joint meeting to declare the merger on Feb. 9 and are scheduled to complete legal enrollment of the mega-party on Feb. 15.

Dissolution of DJP Analyzed

SK0202015290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0131 GMT 2 Feb 90

[By Hong Sang-pyo]

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 2 (YONHAP)—A short round of applause, and South Korea's ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) was no more.

Founded nine years ago by Chon Tu-hwan, who proclaimed it "the main force for reform," the DJP was dissolved by acclamation Thursday [1 Feb] to be reborn as a mega-party, venturing into an uncertain future in a tactical marriage with two opposition parties.

The DJP, until thursday headed by President No Tae-u, was formally declared extinct in the national convention, and the membership mandated the former Central Executive Committee to carry out the merger with Kim Yong-sam's Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) and Kim Chong-pil's New Democratic Republican Party (NDRP).

The "developmental" dissolution to create the new huge party marked the first time that a Korean party has scrapped itself while still in power. The three governing parties before the DJP dating to the early 1950s ended in tragedy: Syngman Rhee's Liberal Party was ruined by a students' revolution in 1960, John M. Chang's Democratic party ousted by a coup led by then Army General Pak Chong-hui the next year and Pak's Democratic Republican Party ceased to exist following his assassination by his chief intellegence aide late in 1979.

In an unprecedented political deal, apparently designed to overcome the opposition's combined majority in the National Assembly and retain power in the post-No era, No joined forces with the RDP leader, who once dubbed the DJP "the party that should not have been born," and Kim Chong-pil, who criticized it for lacking any morality.

The new party is being forged under the banner of "ensuring national stability by forming a grand conservative alliance advocating free democratic and free market systems and parliamentary democracy."

The two Kims, especially Kim Yong-sam, in return for their highly politically motivated bargaining, may be well placed as faction leaders in the party to become head of government if a parliamentary cabinet system is adopted.

No and the two Kims have reportedly agreed to replace the presidential system with the cabinet government setup and have a basic understanding that No will head the new party, tentatively named the Democratic Liberal Party, with Kim Yong-sam the chairman under No and Kim Chong-pil an ordinary member of the five-member collective leadership council.

The former ruling party was founded Jan. 15, 1981, by Chon, who was elected president by a rubber-stamp electoral college in August 1980 with military backing, in a vain attempt to formalize and legitimize his seizure of power.

Before the founding of the DJP, the Chon-led military, which had grabbed power in a revolt in December 1979 shortly after the assassination of President Pak Chong-hui in October that year, outlawed all political parties and banned prominent politicians from politics.

High on the list were three favorites for the presidency—Kim Yong-sam, then president of the largest opposition party, Kim Tae-chung, who was sentenced to death, and Kim Chong-pil, head of Pak Chong-hui's ruling Democratic Republican Party and prime minister.

Chon, an army general who had become virtual national leader after his successful Dec. 12, 1979, revolt, which was supported by No and other fellow generals, was reelected president as DJP candidate in February 1981 by a similar electoral college under the new constitution he had written.

The DJP got off to an ambitious start in one of the most turbulent years of modern Korean history with, in retrospect, ironic calls for the realization of justice in society and "liberation from poverty, threat of war, political oppression and abuse of power."

Actions soon made the promises a lie.

In a bid to consolidate its grip on power from its weak moral position, the DJP waged a fierce war against all opposition and anti-government forces under the pretext of removing social evils, purging corrupt politicians and ensuring social and economic justice.

Despite being a social and political disaster, Chon's DJP was highly credited with bailing out the economy from a deep recession in 1980, when Korea recorded minus growth for the first time since the economic take off in the early 1960s, and managed a nearly 10 percent growth rate until 1988.

The Chon administration successfully prepared and staged the 1988 Seoul Summer Olympic games while maintaining firm military preparedness against North Korean hostilities.

But these accomplishments could by no means be a source of pride for the DJP, due to harsh criticism of the party's rigid authoritarianism, human rights abuses and corruption.

It has been a common understanding that the DJP's origin, mainly depending on coercive measures and lacking political legitimacy or morality, was largely the reason for criticism and complaints from the public.

The first remarkable sign of widespread revulsion for the ruling party came in the 1985 general elections, when a party hurriedly founded by Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung just after they were allowed to resume political activities emerged as the largest opposition party.

Resistance to the DJP gained strength with the two Kims leading the movement, while popular revulsion against the DJP deepened, bringing massive street demonstrations in support of democratization in June 1987.

Chon and No, who succeeded Chon as party president and was nominated as DJP candidate for the presidential election, stood firm at first against the massive pro-democracy protests.

But No declared on June 29, 1987, that he would accept most of the people's demands for democratization, including direct presidential elections, reinstatement of civil rights of Kim Tae-chung and release of political prisoners.

The bold and dramatic steps, which commentators said brought basic changes to the DJP's authoritarian and rigid character, ultimately helped No, as did the opposition's split by the two Kims, win the presidential race in December that year.

But the DJP failed to win a majority in the April general elections in 1988, forcing the the weak ruling party to seek a political realignment with other parties after, critics say, wasting two years of precious time during which the national economy, once the envy of other developing countries, was reduced to crisis proportions, social discipline weakened amid a rash of crime.

The defeat in the April elections was followed by other humiliations due to the political yoke from its past such as the opposition's offensive on wrongs committed during Chon's rule.

The ruling party was also forced to witness its founder going into self-imposed rural exile at a remote Buddhist temple in a bid to calm public ire and ease the political burden on No.

The transformation of the ruling party will be seen as another liquidation of Chon's vestiges by removing the authoritarian leader's power base.

The most important question, however, is whether the holdovers from the DJP can change their style of politics to match the new era, a key to the solid political development of the nation.

RDP Lawmaker Possible Opposition

SK0202030090 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 2 Feb 90 p 2

[News analysis by staff reporter Kang Song-chol: "Representative Yi's Move Affects Opposition Unity"]

[Text] Moves for restructuring the opposition circles are expected to pick up with decision of Rep. Yi Ki-taek not to join the projected new ruling party.

The six-term lawmaker, who has served as vice president and floor leader of the Reunification Democratic Party [RDP], announced the decision Tuesday, bolting from party leader Kim Yong-sam.

The announcement coincided with the RDP special convention to dissolve the party and eventually merge with the Democratic Justice Party [DJP] and the New Democratic Republican Party [NDRP].

Yi's move was immediately welcomed by several RDP lawmakers who had already announced their decision to boycott the new ruling party.

Given his political career and influence, Yi may well serve as a central force around which disgruntled RDP members can gather.

Analysts say Yi might aim to launch a new opposition party by mustering the RDP figures who will not join the new party.

As one who has long called for "generation changes" in the opposition leadership, Yi may ultimately seek to create a unified opposition.

Yi's future political move will greatly affect the chances for the RDP lawmakers boycotting the new ruling party to become a viable political force.

In the meantime, Kim Tae-chung, president of the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD], may well consider Yi's defection from Kim Yong-sam as a favorable development.

At the same time, however, he might feel threatened, as Yi has made it clear that the PPD leader should retreat for opposition unity.

In pushing for a new opposition party, Yi may feel burdened by criticism that he has been somewhat opportunistic.

His critics note that Yi originally agreed to join in the three-party merger and that he even attended a Chongwadae meeting of the projected new party's inaugural committee members.

Following Yi's announcement of his decision to boycott the new ruling party, several RDP lawmakers are said to be reconsidering their position.

They include such senior lawmakers as Vice National Assembly Speaker Kim Chae-kwang, Sin Sang-u and Hwang Nak-chu.

With Reps. Kim Chung-kil and No Mu-hyon adamant in their opposition to joining the new party, the number of RDP lawmakers deserting Kim Yong-sam may increase to as many as ten.

Since his announcement of his boycott of the new ruling party, Yi has been mapping out his future political plans, his aides said.

They said Yi seems to be bent on starting a new opposition party by mustering disgruntled RDP members.

He appears to have judged that it is unrealistic at this moment to push for a unified opposition through the incorporation of Kim Tae-chung's PPD and all other opposition forces.

There is even talk that some PPD lawmakers might join Yi in creating a new opposition party.

Analysts generally agree that the success of Yi's new party, if really launched, would depend in large part on the number of incumbent lawmakers it can recruit.

They say the target may be 20, the number needed to form a floor negotiation group.

New Opposition Party Planned

SK0202103590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0859 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 2 (YONHAP)—A group of eight disgruntled incumbent and former lawmakers, including an independent and members of Kim Yong-sam's just-dissolved Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) who refuse to join their boss in defecting to the ruling camp, met Friday to form a new opposition party.

Among the eight participants were former RDP vice presidents Rep. Yi Ki-taek, Kim Sang-hyon and Kim Hyon-kyu, and three other RDP lawmakers. They agreed to form a body for organizing a new opposition party and meet again Saturday.

"Our aim is to organize a new opposition party, ultimately achieving a grand merger of all opposition groups," independent Rep. Yi Chul said after the meeting. "We will begin activities in earnest on Saturday or Sunday."

Yi added, "we agreed to refrain from criticizing the other opposition groups, including Kim Tae-chung's Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), to ensure a smooth merger of opposition forces."

The PPD is currently Korea's sole opposition party, but its charismatic leader relies on a strictly regional power base.

The group also decided to take resolute actions should the ruling camp take retaliatory measures against rebel lawmakers from the RDP faction.

The TONG-A ILBO daily newspaper, quoting a ruling camp source, reported Thursday that the leaders of new government party were considering "appropriate treatment" for the dissenters.

Meanwhile, Rep. Chang Suk-hwa became the fifth RDP faction lawmaker to oppose the merger of the ruling and two opposition parties, declaring in a news conference that he would not join the new conservative ruling party.

Another five RDP legislators are expected to follow suit, Chang said in the news conference.

The five are Kim Chae-kwang, vice speaker of the National Assembly, Choe Hyong-u, a former floor leader, Kim Tong-chu, Pak Chong-yol and Chong Chung-hun.

In what seems to be a delicate twist in the movement to set up a new opposition party, Kim Sang-hyon, who does not hold a seat in the National Assembly, had a closed-door talk with Kim Tae-chung early Friday morning.

After the talk, Kim, who was a close aide to Kim Tae-chung and No. 2 man in Kim's political faction before the 1987 presidential election, hinted at a need to have the opposition forces united under the PPD's initiative.

He said that the "merger between opposition groups should be performed along with the PPD because the PPD is currently the sole opposition party."

Kim said he also opposed Kim Tae-chung's withdrawal from political bloc, which some of the RDP rebels including Yi Ki-taek have demanded as a condition for alliance with the PPD, and added, "To exclude a specific person from the opposition integration move would hurt the move itself."

Dispute Delays Shipping Line to Moscow

SK0202065590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0618 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 2 (YONHAP)—A dispute among South Korean shipping firms has delayed the opening of a direct shipping line between Korea and the Soviet Union until July at the earliest, officials at the industry and Korea Maritime and Port Administration (KMPA) said Friday.

Arguments over how to participate and share the profits have dogged efforts to open a line since Seoul and Moscow reached an agreement on the project last March.

KMPA designated Hyundai, Chunkyung and Busan shipping companies as eligible to participate and left the Korea Shipowners' Association to decide the operating principles.

Hyundai merchant marine wants to take 51 percent of the profits, while the other two insist on equal distribution.

Industry officials say a line can open in July if the firms agree upon the principles this month, conclude negotiations with the Soviets in Seoul next month and are able to prepare the ships and organize stevedoring and land transportation in the next two or three months.

Seoul and Moscow have yet to decide between a joint venture among the three Korean companies and the Far East Shipping Co. or a joint operation.

Hyundai To Ship Cars to Soviet Union

SK0202030490 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Feb 90 p 8

[Text] Korean-made passenger cars will be exported to the Soviet Union for the first time.

Hyundai Corporation has recently signed a contract with a Soviet rental car agency in Moscow to export 100 passenger cars manufactured by Hyundai Motor.

They break down to 10 Sonatas and 90 Excels.

First of all, Hyundai Corporation, the general trading company [GTC] affiliated with the Hyundai group, will ship two Sonatas and three Excels to the Soviet Union in April.

The Hyundai cars which will be exported to the Soviet Union will be equipped with special tires in consideration of the severe Soviet cold weather.

In the meantime, Hyundai Corporation is considering setting up a permanent exhibition center for passenger cars in the Soviet Union.

It was reported that GTC, a joint venture between the Soviet Union and the United States, called upon Hyundai Corporation to establish the center in December last year when the general trading company took part in an international exhibition of consumer products in Moscow.

Hyundai plans to accelerate economic and trade exchanges with the Soviet Union with the establishment of the exhibition center for passenger cars.

Hyundai Motor will be the second Korean car makers to ship motor vehicles to Communist countries.

Daewoo Motor shipped 3,000 LeMans to Czechoslovakia last year.

Many business experts predicted that shipments of Korean-made motor vehicles to the Communist bloc would sharply increase in the days ahead.

Korea-Libya Committee Meeting Due 2-6 Feb

SK0202024290 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 2 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] The second session of the Korea-Libya joint committee will be held in Tripoli Feb. 2-6, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced yesterday.

The 18-member Korean delegation will be headed by Construction Minister Kwon Yong-kak, while the Libyan side is led by Health Minister [Mustafa Muhammad] az-Zaidi.

The two countries will discuss ways to promote cooperation in trade, construction, science and technology, and communications and culture, a ministry spokesman said.

The first session of the joint committee was held in Seoul in 1985.

Council Reaches Accord With SFRY, GDR

SK0202022090 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 2 Feb 90 p 6

[Text] The International Private Economic Council of Korea [IPECK] and Yugoslavia's Chamber of Commerce have agreed to establish an economic cooperation committee, an IPECK official said yesterday.

An agreement on the establishment of the body was reached Jan. 23.

The inaugural session will be held in September of October either in Seoul or Belgrade.

The IPECK also agreed with East Germany's Chamber of Commerce Jan. 26 to create an economic cooperation committee, the official said.

The inaugural meeting will be held early next year at the latest after working-level consultations, he said.

SEGYE ILBO Interview With No Tae-u Reported

SK0202051590 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 1 Feb p 1

[Text] In connection with the question of the reduction of U.S. forces in Korea, President No Tae-u on 31 January revealed that, "considering the circumstances of the United States, it is inevitable to reduce the administration support forces within the scope of not undermining the military forces."

Revealing this in a special interview with SEGYE ILBO on the occasion of its first anniversary, President No Tae-u said "the decision to reduce the U.S. air forces this time was not a unilateral U.S. decision, but with prior close negotiations with Korea, and it will also be the same next time."

In connection with the political realignment, President No said that "the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] was never excluded in this decision but the PPD chose the road of opposition," that "as the four-party system remained the PPD could not get out of the nature of a local party," and that "the PPD will now be able to get out of this as it tries to accept people from non-Cholla provinces."

In addition, President No revealed his stand that "the appearance of a sound progressive party will be conducive to a political development; however, a political party or its activities aimed at toppling the liberal democratic system itself through class revolution will not be tolerated."

Slow Export, Fast Import Growth Reported

SK0202030990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0252 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 2 (YONHAP)—South Korea had both the slowest export and fastest import growth rates last year among the four newly industrializing economies of Asia and Japan, the Korea Foreign Trade Association (KFTA) reported Friday [2 Feb].

Korean exports reached 62.299 billion U.S. dollars, a 2.6 percent rise from 1988. This contrasts with 15.3 percent for Hong Kong, 14.2 percent (as of the end of November) for Singapore, 9.3 percent for Taiwan and 3.9 percent for Japan.

Imports soared 18.3 percent to 61.3 billion dollars, compared to 14.4 percent (as of the end of November) for Singapore, 13 percent for Hong Kong, 12.5 percent for Japan and 5.3 percent for Taiwan, the report said.

Korea's trade surplus plunged to 999 million dollars from 8.88 billion dollars last year, while Taiwan's swelled to 13.94 billion dollars from 10.92 billion dollars and Hong Kong's soared to 1.706 billion dollars from 733 million dollars.

Japan's trade surplus declined 13.129 billion dollars to a still hefty 64.434 billion dollars, the KFTA report said.

Government Reportedly Not To Raise Oil Prices

SK0202033090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0237 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 2 (YONHAP)—The government will not raise oil prices even if the international price of crude surpasses 18 U.S. dollars a barrel, Energy-Resources Minister Yi Pong-so said Thursday.

Yi said in a briefing to President No Tae-u that the ministry is considering, however, raising gasoline prices to discourage prospective car buyers.

In order to secure a stable energy supply, the ministry will expand oil storage facilities and maintain an oil stockpile enough to meet domestic demand for 60 days.

The ministry will also attempt two confirmation drillings on the continental shelf along the eastern coast this year to find economically viable gas reservoirs and develop technologies to construct and operate nuclear power plants.

A network of liquefied natural gas pipelines extending 1,318 kms between major cities and towns across the country will be established by 1999 at a cost of more than 1.4 trillion won (20.5 billion dollars), and imports of liquefied natural gas will increase from 2 million tons to 7 million tons by 1966.

The government will encourage businesses to take part in resource development projects abroad by loaning them 70 billion won (103 million dollars) this year, Lee said.

Industrial Output Grows 3 Percent in 1989

SK0102031090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0230 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—Industrial output grew 3 percent in 1989, the lowest level since 1980, and the prospect of recovery of the South Korean economy remains unclear for the foreseeable future, a government report said Thursday.

The Economic Planning Board (EPB) report said the operating rate in the manufacturing industry shed 2.5 percentage points last year while warehouse discharges rose a marginal 4.2 percent.

In December, the roughly coincident composite index gained 0.4 percentage points from the previous month while the cyclical value of the coincident index dipped 0.1 points.

EPB said the economy shows signs of improving but remains in a recession because of lingering industrial disputes, sluggish exports and a lack of investments in the manufacturing sector.

The leading composite index, a barometer for business two or three months ahead, advanced 0.3 points but it is too soon to predict an overall economic upturn, the report said.

Despite rises in construction permits, work hours in manufacturing and total liquidity, little hope was found in six key economic barometers: The composite stock price index, export amount, money supply (M1), arrivals of letters of credit, orders for machinery and stockpiles in manufacturing.

Industrial output in December fell 0.7 percent from November, led by setbacks in electric, electronic, fabricated metals, machinery and food and beverages.

Operating rates in the manufacturing sector sagged to 79 percent in December, down 1.4 points from the previous month, sending the rate through 1989 sliding to 77.8 percent from 80.3 percent in 1988.

Unemployment reached 453,000 at the end of last year, up 24,000 from a year ago, but population growth kept the unemployment rate at 2.6 percent, the same as 1988.

Labor Ministry Probes Council of Labor Unions

SK0202032090 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] The Ministry of Labor Affairs launched a 15-day probe of 160 member unions of the National Council for Labor Unions (Chonnohyop) yesterday to find out whether they misappropriated funds for "illegal and impure" purposes.

A ranking official said that the ministry invoked provisions in the Labor Union Act on investigation of the business and activities of trade unions to look into the 160 Chonnohyop member unions.

The labor unions which will undergo investigation number 35 in Seoul, 30 in Pusan and the adjacent area, 15 in Kyongsangnam-to with the rest coming from across the country.

Chonnohyop was established in a rally in Suwon late last month despite the government's adamant opposition. It has been outlawed since its inception.

The investigation, the official said, would focus on misuse of union funds for ideological purposes, not for sound labor activities, and forced donations to the banned Chonnohyop.

The National Council for Labor Unions is receiving donations from its members for a targeted fund of 1,500 million won.

The ministry is considering bringing criminal charges against the labor unions, which violate the related law.

It is the first time that the ministry exercises its right to investigate the business and activities of trade unions since the Labor Union Act was amended in November 1987 to include the forcible probe provision, the official said.

He said the probe of the 160 Chonnohyop member unions will help foster peace and stability in the manufacturing industry.

The government, he added, should strive to protect the industry from labor militants, who seek to change the free economic structure via radical ideological programs.

But labor activists criticized the probe as a crackdown on the free union movement.

International Airport Hub Planned Near Seoul

SK0202032490 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Feb 90 p 1

[Excerpt] A large-scale international airport will be constructed on the West Coast near Seoul by 1996 adn the airport will play a role of a hub in Asia-Pacific region, Transportation Minister Kim Chang-kun said yesterday.

Briefing President No Tae-u on his ministry's major policy goals for the year at Chongwadae, Kim said a new

international city will also be built around the hub, which will be a new political, economic, trade and financial center of the Asia-Pacific region.

The site of the planned international hub will be selected this month from among Yongjong Island, and the Sihwa, Kunja and Namyang areas on the West Coast—all of which are within a 50 km radius of Seoul, the minister said.

An international tender for design of the airport will be offered in March after the site selection, Kim said.

He envisages that the airport will be designed to accommodae supersonic air traffic in the 21st century and that it will become a travel center offering shuttle services to and from North Korea, Japan, China, Taiwan, Singapore and other Asian countries.

The airport will be 33 million sq.m. in size and will have four 4,000 m x 60 m runways, he said. [passage omitted]

To help promote trade with China and the Soviet Union, the government will construct a new port in Kunsan, 170 km southwest of Seoul, and extend Tonghae port on the East Coast, Kim said.

Special Parole Due for 'Converted Leftists'

SK0202023290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0223 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 2 (YONHAP)—The government is likely to release some 20 long-serving prisoners convicted on espionage or security-related crimes on March 1, the 71st anniversary of the Korean independence movement.

The prisoners, who include converted leftists, will receive a special parole to mark the merger between the ruling and two opposition parties, Justice Minister Ho Hyong-ku said Thursday.

The number will be small because many leftists refuse to recant their beliefs, which deny the country's liberal democratic system, Ho said.

Ho, the first high-ranking government official to respond to Kim Yong-sam's declaration Wednesday that he will spearhead efforts for the amnesty of political prisoners in order to spur national reconciliation, hinted at a large-scale amnesty before May.

* Postponement of Local Autonomy System Predicted

902C0083A Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 30 Nov 89 p 3

[Commentary by reporter No Chae-hyon]

[Text] The passage of legislative bills related to the local autonomy system during the current National Assembly session has become almost impossible.

Because of that, there is widespread fear that even the agenda agreed on at the ruling and opposition party leader's meeting held last May for conducting local assembly elections during the first half of 1990 in larger local autonomy institutions (special city, five cities under direct national government control and nine provinces) and basic autonomy institutions (city, county and district) could be postponed until the second half of 1990 or even suspended temporarily.

Legislative bills concerning the local autonomy system, such as the Local Autonomy System Law and the Local Assemblyman Election Law, should pass at least during this parliamentary session, which in turn can allow the government to prepare for a legislative reshuffle and transfer of power and for the political parties to prepare for elections and endorse party candidates.

Nevertheless, the ruling and opposition parties have not shown particular enthusiasm in examining legislative bills, making excuses such as the need to eliminate the irregularities of the Fifth Republic. The ruling and opposition parties worry that their political situation might be hurt if they fail in local autonomy elections, and opposition parties such as the RDP [Reunification Democratic Party] and NDRP [New Democratic Republican Party] are not able to come up with candidates. The other underlying personal interest factor is that National Assemblymen do not want to nuture political rivals in their own election districts.

Confirmation of Difference of Opinion Within Working Level Subcommittee

The working level subcommittee on the local autonomy system, which was organized on 10 November after the ruling and opposition party leaders' meeting (DJP [Democratic Justice Party] Rep. Kim Chong-ho, PPD [Party for Peace and Democracy] Rep. Choe Rak-to, RDP Rep. Mun Chong-su, and NDRP Rep. Kim Che-tae) held a meeting on 20 November but only confirmed their different views. During the ruling and opposition parties' leaders meeting, the issue was not even formally mentioned. During the two 4-party political committee chairmen's meetings held on 24 and 28 November respectively, only the PPD disclosed its intention of adopting a medium-sized electoral district system on the condition of political party endorsement of local assembly candidates and actual legislative negotiations are very stagnant.

The Fifth Republic issue is holding up other agenda items such as the budget, other legislative bills and even "grassroots democracy."

Based on the agenda agreed on during the ruling and opposition parties leaders' meeting held last May, which was meant to set the guidelines for electing the head of the local autonomy institution in 1991, the DJP confirmed its party line which, in general, is as follows: Broad-based local autonomy institutions will adopt medium size electorates while basic autonomy institutions will adopt a mixed electorate system, electing one to two people in each electoral

district; no party endorsements; appointment and dismissal of the deputy head of the local autonomy institution by the central government.

DJP Chairman Pak Chun-Kyu reconfirmed this party platform in the district party chapter reorganization meeting held in Hoengsong and Wonju, Kangwon Province on 25 November 1989 and reiterated its plan to form local assemblies during the first half of 1990.

On the other hand, the three opposition parties have not been able to prepare another new single opposition legislative bill since last month when their Unified Local Autonomy Law, which passed the National Assembly with the primary aim of setting up the local autonomy system, was vetoed by the administration.

The major points of negotiation regarding the Local Autonomy Law are as follows: The method of appointment and dismissal of the deputy head of the local autonomy institution and the extent of supervisory rights of superior institutes over subordinate institutes. Major arguments concerning the Local Assembly Election Law are whether political parties will endorse their candidates, and the standard for defining electoral districts and numbers of local assemblymen.

As for the method of appointment and dismissal of the deputy head of the local autonomy institution, the DJP argues that the central government should assume total authority in order to maintain consistency in national government administration and to make full use of competent professional public servants. Furthermore, the DJP argues that the minister of internal affairs, city mayor or governor should exert strong leadership and maintain supervisory rights.

Three Opposition Parties Also Differ in Their Opinions

On this matter, the three opposition parties differ with the DJP argument, favoring the procedure whereby the head of the local autonomy institution appoints his deputy with the approval of the local assembly in order to support the original objective of independence. They also share the view that supervision of subordinate institutions should be minimized so as to encourage, rather than to order change, in local policies. The opposition camps are also considering a compromise plan which will allow the central government to appoint and dismiss the deputy head of the local autonomy institution during the first term with the approval of the local assembly for the purpose of maintaining consistency and professionalism of government administration in the early period.

Political party endorsement of local candidates has the most political interest among the ruling and opposition parties. The DJP, which is conscious of the fact that most local leaders who are possible local assembly candidates have pro-government tendencies, favors the exclusion of political parties based on the necessity for political neutrality, and that the unhealthy elements within the four-party structure should not be repeated in local politics. On the other hand, the three opposition parties argue for party endorsement or candidates' public disclosure of their party association in election campaign posters at least.

However, while the PPD, an opposition party with strong regional support, argues that political party associations should be made public, the RDP and NDRP do not necessarily share this same view.

As for the electoral district system, the DJP supports a mixed electoral district system while the PPD supports a small-sized electoral district system and the RDP and NDRP favor a medium-sized electoral district system. Recently, the PPD, fearing a deepening of the regional party phenomenon resulting from the small-sized electoral district system, is reported to have looked closely at a medium-sized electoral district system.

No Interest in Early Execution

As for the size of the electoral district system and the number of local assemblymen, the four ruling and opposition parties are proposing their respective opinions according to administrative districts, National Assembly electoral districts, and population.

However, even though the opposition parties demand the early establishment of the local autonomy system which they propose as the fundamental basis of grassroots democracy, in fact they are not really interested. On the other hand, the DJP is obsessed with ways to maintain its strong political position. Therefore, negotiation over the local autonomy system remains stagnant. If political circles delay that negotiation until the last moment because of their unreasonable political party tactics, they must expect that people will criticize such behaviour as dereliction of duty in public office.

Burma

Government Troops Seize Karen Rebel Camps

BK0102005590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Feb 90 p 4

[Text] Tak—Burmese government troops yesterday captured another major stronghold of the Karen National Union (KNU) opposite Phop Phra District.

Valey Camp, the forward headquarters of the 6th KNU Division, was seized about 10 a.m. by about 400 Burmese soldiers from the 13th and 16th Battalions of the 33rd Division and 4th Battalion of the 44th Division which captured Mawkier Camp from the KNU on Saturday.

While moving south, the Burmese troops were ambushed several times by the KNU.

The first attack occurred about six kilometres west of the border on Monday.

A Border Patrol Police source said about 15 Burmese soldiers were killed and 20 wounded, while five Karen rebels were killed and seven wounded.

About 10 KNU sawmills were razed, but it was not known whether this was done by Burmese soldiers.

The perimeters of Valey Camp were heavily mined, the source said.

Phop Phra District authorities said about 2,800 Karens had taken refuge at seven Thai villages along the border.

Meanwhile, Burmese troops which took two hill positions near the KNU's Kawmura Camp, opposite Mae Sot's Ban Wang Kaeo, launched an unsuccessful attack on the camp early yesterday and a heavy exchange of fire ensued.

Twelve mortar rounds landed at Ban Wang Kaeo on the Thai side of the border during the clash, but inflicted no damage or casualties.

Resistance Urges Ending Arms Sales to Rangoon

BK0102010790 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] The largest Burmese resistance group recently appealed to countries selling weapons to Burma to stop the practice, saying the arms were being used to kill innocent people.

The Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB), based on the Thai-Burmese border, declared in a statement received here yesterday that "(we) have been informed Pakistan, Singapore, South Korea and Israel are supplying weapons to the military junta of General Saw Maung."

Saw Mang and his army came to power after a bloody coup d'etat in Sept 1988 against civilians demanding an end to three-decades of dictatorship.

"The DAB deeply regrets that these countries are indirectly encouraging the torture, persecution and killing of the ethnic nations (ethnic groups fighting Rangoon) and the annihilation of monks, students and people from all walks of life fighting for democracy."

Meanwhile, the Kachin Independence Organization (KIA), an armed Burmese ethnic group which belongs to the DAB, issued a statement claiming military successes against the Burmese army.

Thai Deputy Prime Minister, Delegation Arrive

Receive Welcome at Airport

BK0102141690 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] A goodwill delegation from Thailand led by Mr Phong Sarasin, deputy prime minister, and his wife, and Mr Dr Subin Pinkhayan, minister of commerce, and his wife arrived by air in Yangon [Rangoon] at 1600 today as state guests of the Government of the Union of Myanma [Burma].

The Thai delegation was welcomed at the airport by Rear Admiral Maung Maung Khin, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and minister for mines and energy, and his wife; Brigadier General Khin Nyunt, SLORC secretary-1, and his wife; Colonel Abel, minister for trade and for planning and finance, and his wife; U Nyunt Swe, Myanma ambassador to Thailand, and his wife; and Mr Thongchan Chotikasathian, Thai ambassador to Myanma, and his wife. The guests were presented with bouquets of flowers by five young girls.

The 13-member Thai goodwill delegation includes Mr (Che Honphun), deputy chief secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister; Mrs Oranut Osathanon, director general of the Foreign Trade Department; and Mr Plotprasop Suratsawadi, director general of the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

Lieutenant General Than Shwe, member of the SLORC, and his wife hosted a dinner in the evening at No 2 Guesthouse in honor of the Thai deputy prime minister and his delegation.

Lt Gen Than Shwe and the visiting deputy prime minister exchanged toasts at the dinner.

Hold Meeting With Saw Maung

BK0102143590 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] General Saw Maung, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and prime minister of the Union of Myanma [Burma], received the visiting Thai deputy prime minister, Mr Phong Sarasin, at 1700 today at the Dagon House of the Ministry of Defense.

Present at the meeting with Gen Saw Maung, SLORC chairman, were: Lieutenant General Than Shwe,

member of the SLORC; Brigadier General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the SLORC; Brigadier General Tin U, secretary-2 of the SLORC; U Nyunt Swe, Myanma ambassador to Thailand; U Ohn Gyaw, director general of the Political Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and U Pe Thein Tin, director of the Protocol Department.

Present at the meeting with the Thai deputy prime minister were: Dr Subin Pinkhayan, minister of commerce; Mr Thongchan Chotikasathian, Thai ambassador to Myanma; Mr (Che Honphun), deputy chief secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister; Mrs Oranut Osathanon, director general of the Foreign Trade Department of the Commerce Ministry; Mr Plotprasop Suratsawadi, director general of the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives; and Mrs Laksanachan Laohaphan, ambassador of the Foreign Ministry.

Reporter Comments on Parties' Election Symbols

BK0202030390 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Feb p 10

[Article by Htun Aung Gyaw under the rubric "Dateline Burma" and headlined "Kindergarten Politics Makes Its Debut in Burma"]

[Text] The military junta in Burma is trying its utmost to destroy or weaken Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party. And one of the most feeble-minded plots they have come up with so far is to ban the use of heavenly objects and animals as party symbols by all political parties contesting the promised upcoming elections in May.

With this prohibition the NLD party was automatically banned from using its party symbol—the yellow star and the fighting peacock. Instead the military rulers have issued 25 symbols of kindergarten politics like a comb, a chair, an alarm clock, a gong and a peasant's hat usually worn by farmers, a ring, a tennis racquet, and others to be used as party symbols.

The ban has also been applied to students wearing badges of the late national leader General Aung San, father of Aung San Suu Kyi, at schools. Because of the restriction, students have resorted to pinning a one-kyat Burmese currency note with General Aung San's picture on their chests.

Their (Commission for Multiparty Democratic General Elections) reason for such mundane symbols is ... for voters who cannot read. Perhaps they are ignorant of the fact that the literacy rate in Burma is more than 80 percent not counting duds like Saw Maung and the ruling military elite.

The military believes (believe it or not) that by getting Aung San Suu Kyi and her party to abandon their well-known and popular yellow star and the fighting peacock they would cut down the popularity of the opposition group.

However the charismatic daughter of Burma's independence hero General Aung San is not to be outdone or outgunned by the kindergarten politics of the boys in green. She and her party have chosen the peasant's hat as the party symbol to indicate that the hat shields the people from the elements of nature, like the sun and the rain.

In addition the NLD, or the hat, will protect the people against all oppressive rulers, especially against the bloodthirsty military junta, in addition to bringing peace and prosperity to Burma.

Former premier U Nu, 83, patron of the League for Peace and Democracy Party, has chosen the alarm clock as his party's emblem. To U Nu, an alarm clock represents time. And only time will decide the demise of the military dictators and the return of democratic rule to the country, the golden land he and his democratically elected members of parliament had once governed.

Thu Wai, who served as secretary to U Nu when both of them went underground after the 1962 coup, has selected a gong for his party (Burma Democratic Party). Why the gong? Thu Wai believes, like the gong, his party will always respond, loud and long, with battle cries to eliminate the oppressors.

The National Unity Party [NUP], formerly the Burma Socialist Programme Party, chose the rice grain as its party symbol to indicate that farmers and farming are the backbone of the Burmese economy and the NUP is claiming to serve the interests of the farmers.

The Farmers Unity Party, another group that has been created and controlled by the military regime, picked the bullock cart as its symbol.

Former Brig Gen Aung Gyi selected the scales as the symbol of the national Union Democratic Party. The people are mocking his choice saying that it was a symbol of an opportunist. Aung Gyi, they say, will side with anyone who is gaining the upperhand. The former brigadier general is known to have switched sides often to his benefit.

The symbols chosen by other parties include the oil lamp by the Arkan League for Democracy, a long drum by the Shan nationalities League for Democracy, a flag by the Democratic Front for National Construction, a handbag for the People's Power Party, a ceiling fan for the Shan State Kachin Democratic party, a shirt for the National Peace Party, a camera for the New Generation Work Front, a helicopter for the Arakan Nationalities Democratic Party, and so on.

A total of more than 100 political parties, in one way or another, have begun campaigning for the promised free and fair elections scheduled for May 27. But the most active of them all is the National Unity Party which is backed by the military government.

The NUP has access to all the funds accumulated by the former Burma Socialist Programme Party and its buildings and premises all over the country, in addition to freedom of movement which is denied to other political

parties. NUP is said to spend up to a million kyats campaigning in a small town and double that sum in big towns and cities.

Saw Maung and his government insist the elections would be free and fair. How free and how fair, the Burmese people will have to wait and see. The present situation, however, indicates otherwise. Leaders and members of popular political parties have been persecuted, like Gen Tin U, chairman of the League for Democracy, who has been sentenced to three years imprisonment, general secretary Aung San Suu Kyi, who is under house arrest since June last year, and in December 1989, the former premier and patron of the League for Peace and Democracy Party was also placed under house arrest. Being popular in Burma nowadays does not pay.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Hassan Omar Receives Visiting Soviets

BK3001091990 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0839 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 30 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia has invited Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to visit the country.

The invitation was conveyed by Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar to a group of seven Soviet parliamentarians who called on him at his office here Tuesday. Abu Hassan, who spoke to reporters after the hour-long discussions was hopeful Gorbachev will pay a visit to Malaysia in the near future. Eight of the seven [numbers as received] Soviet parliamentarians, led by the assistant to the director-general of the industrial energy group, Azarov Sergeo Ignatievich, are among a 30-member group from the Soviet Parliament now here on week-long visit.

Estate Workers Go on Strike 31 Jan

BK3101042490 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0408 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 31 (OANA-BERNAMA)—An estimated 65,000 estate workers nationwide went on strike Wednesday [31 January] as talks over their claims for monthly wages continued.

Negotiations between the National Union of Plantation Workers (NUPW) and the Malaysian Agricultural Producers Association (MAPA) representing the estates broke down Tuesday and were to resume Wednesday morning.

However, the talks did not take place. Instead, acting Labor Minister Lee Kim Sai stepped in to help resolve the dispute. Lee is now meeting the two sides separately. The NUPW has for years been asking for monthly wages for estate workers but estate managements in rejecting the claim maintained that this was not in practice anywhere in the world.

Trade Surplus in 1989 Lower Than in 1988

BK0202065590 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Malaysia continued to register a favorable balance of trade with a surplus of 6,234 million ringgit for the period between January and November last year. The Statistics Department noted in its latest trade [words indistinct], however, that this was 42 percent lower than the surplus recorded for the corresponding period in 1988. This was because imports grew much faster than exports. Total exports grew by 23 percent to 61,730 million ringgit in the first 11 months of 1989.

Singapore

Court Dismisses Detainee's Plea for Release

BK0102115590 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 1 Feb 90 p 17

[By Cheng Shoong Tat]

[Excerpt] The High Court yesterday dismissed with costs Internal Security Act [ISA] detainee Vincent Cheng's application for a release order, rejecting his claim that the ISD [Internal Security Department] had no evidence against him.

In a 24-page judgement, Mr Justice Lai Kew Chai held that all the six arguments put forward in support of Cheng's application were based on the assumption that there was no evidence of Cheng's involvement in a Marxist conspiracy to subvert the Government.

Stressing that such an assumption must first be proven, the judge said:

"In truth and in fact, the case against him (Cheng) was considered by the entire Cabinet and, in the light of his own confessions, though since withdrawn, the least that can be asserted against the applicant is that there has been some evidence against the applicant..."

He noted, in particular, that the Government, in deciding to detain Cheng for two years in 1987, had indicated the grounds for the detention and had enumerated the facts on which these grounds were based.

These included Cheng's meeting with Marxist mastermind Tan Wah Piow in London in 1981, his agreement to carry out Tan's instructions to set up a united front of grassroots organisations in Singapore, his indoctrination of students and Catholic activists in Singapore with Marxist ideas, his manipulation of the Justice and Peace Commission, a Catholic organisation, and his attempt to develop a Catholic pressure group in 1986.

"The applicant had admitted that he was a Marxist, that he was a member of the conspiracy, and, if I am not wrong, he even admitted in a television interview that if necessary he would have resorted to violence to bring about a communist state," said the judge, noting, however, that Cheng had now recanted his statements.

The decision, taken last year, to extend Cheng's detention by another year also followed the procedures stipulated in the ISA, he said. He ruled that once it was established that there was evidence against Cheng, it would be contrary to the structure of the law of preventive detention for any court to consider whether the evidence was sufficient or relevant. [passage omitted]

Cambodia

Hun Sen Receives U.S. Scientists Union Leader

BK3001122790 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1103 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 30—Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister for foreign affairs of the State of Cambodia, has received in Phnom Penh Mr. Jeremy Stone, president of the U.S. Scientists Union.

Hun Sen informed his American guest of the current development in Cambodia, especially the country's economic reform. He said that since the complete pull-out of Vietnamese Army volunteers from Cambodia, the three Khmer opposition factions have sought to intensify their activities in northwestern border provinces. However, he said, they could not reverse the situation.

Chairman Hun Sen highlighted the Cambodian Government's good will in the process of settling the conflict by peaceful means. He rejected any attempts to compel the Cambodian people to accept the criminal Pol Potists role in the country.

In reply, Jeremy Stone expressed his joy at the new life of the Cambodian people and expressed his optimism that the Cambodian people would see a bright future. He said that when returning home he would inform the U.S Congress about the reality in Cambodia.

Forced Repatriation of Refugees Criticized

BK0202043590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 1 Feb 90

[PRACHEACHON commentary: "Immediately Stop Exploiting the Refugees for Inhumane Purposes"]

[Text] According to UN officials in charge of refugees who are on relief mission for Cambodian refugees along the Thai-Cambodian border, in the past several days, the Pol Pot remnants have been busily forcing thousands of refugees, using guns and bayonets, to leave Bor Rai camp and send them to live in a border area that those officials in charge of refugees called the dangerous zone.

According to those UN officials, this activity by the Pol Pot elements is aimed at preventing the UN officials from sending those refugees—mainly children, pregnant women, and sick and aging people who are being given medical treatment due to malaria and other illnesses—to live elsewhere.

This is an inhumane activity and another crime committed against refugees by the Pol Pot elements who, every year when they launched the offensive into the border area, have always conducted the so-called repatriation of refugees into the liberated zone. In fact, this so-called liberated zone is a mine field, a place where shooting is going on, and a malaria-infested area. Many refugees who reached this area died and suffered from the tragedy prepared beforehand by the Pol Pot elements.

The Government of the State of Cambodia has always paid great attention to the fate of the refugees and, through its successive statements, has declared its desire to quickly resolve the problem of refugees in a way that the refugees may return freely and in an orderly manner to their motherland on a voluntary basis.

But the Pol Pot elements and the other Cambodian opposition groups, including the groups of Sihanouk and Son Sann, did not care about the fate of the refugees. They have used the refugees, on the one hand, as forces for carrying ammunition across minefields and as reinforcements to replenish their army forces killed or lost on the battlefield and, on the other hand, as bait to entice international humanitarian aid and as a screen to shield them from death in case of attack by the forces of the Phnom Penh government.

All these activities and this new act of forcibly repatriating refugees were committed by the Pol Pot elements at a time when more and more peace- and justice-loving countries and forces are making efforts internationally in order to quickly reach a solution to peace in Cambodia and unanimously agree that the Pol Pot clique must not be allowed to return to power in Cambodia. All these acts are not accidental.

The Cambodian people who had suffered under the genocidal regime and heard about and witnessed countless crimes and senseless massacres committed by the Pol Pot clique would like once again to call on the international community to increasingly pressure and force this notorious clique to immediately stop all its barbarous acts against refugees.

The Government of the State of Cambodia is ready to consider accepting the refugees who are repatriated voluntarily as it did previously.

Chea Soth at Indian National Day Reception

BK3001064590 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0410 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, 29 Jan (SPK)—Rinzing Nangdi, India's charge d'affaires to Cambodia, hosted a reception in

Phnom Penh last Friday [26 January] in honor of the 40th anniversary of his country's national day—26 January.

Responding to the invitation were Chea Soth, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Mat Ly, vice chairman of the National Assembly and chairman of Cambodia's Federation of Trade Unions; Tie Banh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of national defense; Nguon Nhel, secretary of the of the party committee for Phnom Penh City, and other officials.

Also present were members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of international organizations assigned to Cambodia.

Speaking on the occasion, Rinzing Nangdi recalled the significance of 26 January 1950, the date which for India has marked the passage from a feudal and colonial regime to democracy.

On the relations between the two countries, the Indian charge d'affaires stressed that his count: constantly has strengthened and developed friendship and cooperation with Cambodia.

He expressed particular satisfaction with the success of the Jakarta informal meeting, of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, and of all peace initiatives for a political solution to the Cambodian problem. He wished he would soon see the resumption of the negotiations on the settlement of this problem.

For his part, Council of Ministers Vice Chairman Chea Soth highly appreciated the struggle of the heroic Indian people, a struggle which has contributed to the heightening of India's prestige in the international arena.

On behalf of the Cambodian Government and people, he expressed thanks to the Indian Government and people for the support they have given to the just struggle of the Cambodian people in national defense and reconstruction.

In the end, the Cambodian leader reaffirmed his conviction that the relations of friendship and comprehensive cooperation between Cambodia and India will further strengthen and develop with each passing day in the interest of the two peoples.

Chea Sim Congratulates Indian Counterpart

BK2801071790 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, 28 January (SPK)—Chea Sim, chairman of the State of Cambodia's National Assembly, recently conveyed warm congratulations to Rabi Ray, the House speaker of the Republic of India, on the 40th anniversary of Indian national day.

In his message, the Cambodian leader said:

"We highly appreciate the remarkable achievements scored by the Indian people over the past 40 years in their tasks to make India a developing and prosperous country.

"With its prestigious role in the Nonaligned Movement, the international arena, and especially the Asian region, India, which is a driving force, has conducted a zealous struggle to contribute to establishing peace, security, and social progress for mankind in the world.

"Taking advantage of this solemn opportunity, we would like to express our profound gratitude to the Indian Government and people for their staunch support and unbiased assistance to the State of Cambodia's Government and people in their struggle against a return of the genocidal Pol Pot-Ieng Sary regime and for national reconciliation and the restoration of a peaceful, independent, neutral, and nonaligned land of Angkor.

"May the relations of friendship and multifaceted cooperation between our two countries and peoples and, specifically, between our two legislative bodies further strengthen and develop."

Bou Thang Sends Greetings to SRV Counterpart

BK2801050590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] On the occasion of the traditional new year of the fraternal Vietnamese people, Comrade General Bou Thang, chief of the General Political Department of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF], has sent a greetings message to Comrade Gen Nguyen Quyet, director of the General Political Department of the Vietnamese People's Army [VPA]. The message said:

Dear comrade director of the General Political Department: On the occasion of the traditional new year of the fraternal Vietnamese people, on behalf of all cadres, male and female combatants, and the party and political commissars in the CPAF and in my own name, we are very glad to extend warmest and most sincere greetings to the comrade director of the General Political Department and your family as well as cadres, male and female combatants, and the party and political commissars in the fraternal VPA.

We wish the comrade director of the General Political Department, cadres, male and female combatants, and party and political commissars in the VPA good luck, happiness, prosperity, good health, powerful strength, and new victories in carrying out your noble tasks assigned by the party and people.

Please, comrade director, accept my sincere regards.

Mongolian Foreign Minister Greets Hun Sen

BK2701142790 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Recently, Comrade Hun Sen, foreign minister of the State of Cambodia, received a message from Comrade Tserempiliyn Gombosuren, foreign minister of the Mongolian People's Republic, greeting him on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the State of Cambodia's 7 January national day. The message noted:

On the occasion of the State of Cambodia's national day, I would like to extend warm congratulations to you and wish you more achievements in your correct struggle for the interests and peaceful life of the Cambodian people.

Delegates Leave for Athens World Peace Meeting

BK0102055590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] On 31 January, Comrade Yit Kimseng, health minister and chairman of the Cambodian Committee for the Defense of Peace, left Cambodia for Athens, Greece, to attend the coming meeting of the World Peace Council.

Seeing the delegation off at Pochentong Airport were many comrades from the Health Ministry and the party Central Committee's Foreign Relations Commission.

Chea Sim Gives National Assembly Closing Speech

BK0102140190 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Closing Speech by National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim on 31 January to end the 18th National Assembly—recorded]

[Text] After thoroughly and fruitfully discussing all issues in the agenda over the past few days, the members of our National Assembly deservedly fulfilled their duty as representatives of the Cambodian people throughout the country and as members of the supreme institution of power of our people.

During this session, all aspects of life of our national society were discussed, based on the principle of speaking only the truth without ambiguities, upholding unity as a single body, and in the spirit of building our government and national society, so as to enhance our government's efficiency in state, social, and economic management in response to the changes within and in the growth of our country at a time when the position and strength of our people are increasing incessantly.

Through the views of the members of the National Assembly, our session held the same opinion that the open-door policy of the party and state, especially the five-point economic policy put forth by the second national conference of party cadres and the five economic components described in the Constitution, constitutes the correct foundation ensuring the success of the first socioeconomic development program. However, our National Assembly session also underlined that the broadening of politics and economics should be conducted with the control, orientation, and target-setting provided by state laws in order that the rights, freedom, and legitimate interests of the people throughout the country are ensured.

Our National Assembly session noted that in the current half-war, half-peace situation, there certainly must exist some difficulties. But, the important thing is that we must know how to intelligently and reasonably use our goods, our natural resources, and the work force of the country. In particular, we must not give too much sympathetic attention to immediate needs while forgetting future consequences.

At the same time, our National Assembly members paid close attention to the effectiveness of respect and enforcement of laws in national society. They were of the opinion that henceforth we must make greater efforts to foster respect and obedience for laws, turning this sense into a habit, a tradition for our people throughout the country in order to raise their sense of honor and dignity, and to turn our country into a state that would last forever by the strength of laws. Only on a legal basis can we really guarantee equal access to rights, freedom, democracy, and political life in our national society.

Our National Assembly session holds that through this legislative work and successive and incessant assessments of laws, we are making an energetic advance in the process of real social democratization. It is true that our achievements over the past 11 years rest in the fact that we have transformed a society that had virtually lost its national soul and conscience into a society whose sense of national identity has been restored, and which is advancing toward genuine development based on the fact that the state is functioning under laws and is supported by all levels of authorities and tribunals.

Starting from this view and fortified by the growth and development of our nation, the 18th National Assembly examined and discussed many other issues concerning all aspects of life of our national society with the aim of enhancing the sense of responsibility for the destiny and future of our motherland. Our National Assembly is firmly convinced that through this important work, the Council of Ministers will have a greater impetus to provide administration for our people in 1990.

Dear comrades and friends: We have now reached an important turning point in the history of our motherland where the question of peace and war is becoming most acute as a result of the arduous, complex, and resolute struggle between our side and the enemy. The chronic war which has been dragging on for the past 2 decades has caused our national society to experience a most tragic change, going from being an ultrarightist regime to an ultraleftist one when it was pushed into the danger of genocide, devastation, and unprecedented upheaval. Therefore, the struggle to enable the nation to become free and prosperous again under our new regime in the half-peace, half-war situation over the past 11 years, has overcome many difficulties and obstacles. One thing that inspires us with pride is that every Cambodian throughout the country has enjoyed the sweet fruits of our new regime which has caused and is causing our motherland to flourish again, the lives of the people to become more stable, and their rights, freedom, interests, and faith to be guaranteed by laws.

The sacred wishes of the Cambodian people at present are to have peace, development, and a firm guarantee that the genocidal Pol Pot regime will not return to power.

During the past 20 years, our people have clearly seen that the Pol Pot gang has not changed its cruel and savage character, that it has not stopped violating human rights, and that it has not mended its genocidal nature. Moreover, their strategic goal remains unchanged.

With a high sense of responsibility for the destiny and future of the motherland and through implementing the Constitution—the supreme law of the state—the 18th National Assembly has thoroughly examined, analyzed, and discussed the government's proposals on the role of the United Nations as an interim authority in Cambodia for controlling the implementation of international agreements on Cambodia and organizing general elections.

After debating this issue, our National Assembly session reached the consensus that in principle Cambodians joyfully welcome the UN role in the search for a political solution to the Cambodian problem because this responds to their sacred wishes and the goodwill of the State of Cambodia in the implementation of the national reconciliation policy and the more speedy search for peace. More important, our people are confident that the United Nations has sufficient resources and competence to help end the chronic conflict through peaceful means. Besides, our National Assembly holds that, first of all, it is necessary to have a real guarantee of this organization's impartiality, strict respect for Cambodia's sovereignty, and rigorous respect for the Cambodian people's right to self-determination with the intention of turning Cambodia into an independent, peaceful, sovereign, and nonaligned state with territorial integrity and permanent neutrality.

Starting from that principle, our National Assembly has decided to put in the hands of Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs, the right to prepare a detailed program of action on foreign affairs to promote a new, active diplomacy, and to conduct negotiations on behalf of the State of Cambodia at all future forums. What is important is that we must preserve at all costs the rebirth of the people and motherland, the rights, freedom, faith, and present interests of the people throughout the country, and the respect for human rights without the resurgence in Cambodia of the genocidal regime in whatever forms.

The National Assembly of the State of Cambodia holds that the entire international community should accept its share of responsibility and contribute to taking urgent measures to prevent the possibility of any revival of the genocidal regime in Cambodia. All their contributions in the search for a political solution to the Cambodian problem must take these points into consideration in order to ensure lasting peace for the Cambodian people.

On behalf of the people throughout the country, I call on peace-, justice-, and democracy-loving people of the world, on all political personalities, on legislative organizations, and on governments of all countries in the world, to contribute their best in all forms to support the search for a political solution to the Cambodian problem and to use all their influence to end the civil war and prevent the return of the Pol Pot regime.

The Cambodian people throughout the country warmly welcome international participation in effecting the cease-fire, the cessation of military supplies to all warring Cambodian factions, and international control as steps toward a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem.

Dear comrades and friends, it is most true that between now and the complete settlement of the Cambodian problem, the enemy of all stripes will continue making utmost efforts to muster their forces by also mobilizing refugees from the camps to attack and capture some areas, especially those along the Cambodian-Thai border, in order to use them as a lever to put political pressure on us at the negotiating table and to seize military advantage. In such a serious situation, all of us must be committed and not surrender to the enemy. Our whole national society and all aspects of life of our society must turn their face toward the front in order to protect its gains and its rebirth. Everywhere in the motherland, every field, every level, every sector, every family, and every Cambodian must contribute to this noble duty and must consent to make all kinds of sacrifice to defend our country and protect the happiness of our people. We are extremely proud that our current National Assembly session has taken concrete, important measures concerning this. Once again, I sincerely praise all our National Assembly members for sharing weal and woe and uniting in the same ideal for the survival of the nation, working hard with a high sense of responsibility so that our first National Assembly can fulfill its duty deservedly as the supreme organ of the state and loyal servant of the people.

I am firmly convinced that all of you will carry on the tradition of serving the people in the common spirit and common cause: everything for the battlefield, everything for the motherland, everything for the happiness of the people.

I wish all of you the best of health, happiness, and successes in all missions assigned by the state and people. [applause]

Before concluding, I would like to inform all of you that in the new stage of the raging struggle waged by our people at present, it is necessary to strengthen and harden the determination to endure hardship, to fight the enemy, and to overcome all difficulties, which is the sign of great patriotism. In particular, even if circumstances or situation require that we should experience greater difficulties and complexities, we would still continue to struggle and we would unite even more closely than ever. Endurance in combat and unity are noble virtues, sacred vehicles that would take us toward final victory. I hereby declare the 18th session of the 1st National Assembly closed.

Combat Activities in 4th Military Region Cited

BK0102053590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] According to a report from the 4th Military Region, in the week from 21 to 27 January, the Armed Forces of all categories in the 4th Military Region jointly conducted search-and-destroy operations and ambushed the enemies' attempts to infiltrate their localities. They put 115 enemies out of action—including 55 killed, 53 wounded, 3 captured, and 4 others who were forced to surrender. Our Armed Forces also seized nine assorted weapons and a large quantity of war materiel.

The victories won by the Armed Forces of the 4th Military Region together with the frontline units have greatly weakened the enemies—physically, morally, and materially—thus causing them more serious defeats militarily and politically.

Our people in all localities have warmly welcomed the great victories won successively by our Armed Forces. They have more actively taken part in building the Armed Forces quantitatively and qualitatively.

Battle Activities in Battambang Reported

BK3101122490 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1100 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] According to reports from the 5th Military Region, all of the armed units defending Battambang Province—constantly upholding the spirit and readiness to fight and to thwart all of the enemy's attempts aimed at endangering the people's safety and at ruining social gains—have conducted joint mopping-up operations against the enemy, scoring one success after the other.

Between 21 and 27 January, we used our combined forces, including the combatants of the 92d Brigade, some units of the 5th Military Region, the Armed Forces of Sangke and Banan Districts, and Battambang Province's 1st and 6th Battalions, to launch successful search-and-destroy operations against the enemy northwest of Phnum Thippadei. As a result, we killed 38 and wounded 70 enemy soldiers, captured 4 infiltrating enemy elements, and destroyed two arms caches.

The successes clearly show the self-reliance in assuming the national defense task of our Armed Forces, which always use combined forces, concerted planning, and joint tactics to defeat the enemy and maintain security for the people. However, these victories are inseparable from the assistance and support provided by party and state committees and people in every locality and are also attributed to implementation of the slogan "Everything is for the front line, the motherland, and the people's happiness."

ANS Claims Destruction of Ammunition Dump

BK0202064290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Combatants of the Sihanoukist National Army [ANS] yesterday destroyed a Vietnamese-Heng Samrin ammunition depot with over 1,000 tonnes of various types of ammunition in Sisophon District seat, Battambang Province.

Reports from the ANS command said that at 0300, a number of ANS combatants from the 11th Brigade in the 3d Military Region destroyed an ammunition depot in Sisophon District seat containing over 1,000 tonnes of ammunition which exploded and were completely destroyed. The sources said this ammunition depot with over 1,000 tonnes of ammunition in it exploded and was burning until 0900 yesterday morning. The sources also disclosed that this depot contained all types of ammunition, including BM-14, 130-mm, 122-mm, 120-mm, 107-mm, 100-mm, 76.2-mm, DK-75, DK-82, M-82, and 12.7-mm shells, B-40 and B-49 rockets, and many tonnes of various types of hand gun ammunition and various types of mines. All this was destroyed by ANS troops.

The ammunition depot in Sisophon District seat which was destroyed by the ANS combatants was 75 meters long and 35 meters wide, and was a major ammunition dump of the Vietnamese-Heng Samrin troops for supplying their forward positions on battlefields in western and northern Cambodia. Sisophon District seat, a strategic town in western Cambodia, is one of the goals of Cambodian resistance forces in their offensives.

Further on Arms Dumps Attacks

BK0202024590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Feb 90 p 6

[Excerpt] Cambodian guerrillas said they blew up a big government arms dump yesterday in the northwestern town of Sisophon, which they say is their next target in a four-month offensive.

A six-man sabotage team sneaked into the town, a headquarters for government operations in the Thai border area, early yesterday morning, a spokesman for the Sihanoukist National Army [ANS] said.

"They used TNT to blow up an arms depot about 300 or 400 metres south of the Sisophon town market, destroying about 1,000 tons of ammunition and weapons," he said.

Officials of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), the non-communist ally of the ANS in the guerrilla coalition, also claimed to have attacked a weapons store in the town at the same time.

It was not immediately clear if there were two attacks or both groups were claiming the same one.

The KPNLF said it had also blown up an arms dump at Nimit, a military outpost halfway along the 48-km road from Sisophon to the Thai border.

Sihanoukist generals have said the two groups planned a coordinated offensive on Sisophon with their third ally, the fanatical Maoist Khmer Rouge, whose focus of operations has been further south. [passage omitted]

Track, Bridge 'Cut' on Moung-Pursat Battlefield

BK2901031290 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] On 22 January, our Cambodian national resistance forces cut the railroad track of the Vietnamese enemy and puppets between Kouk Trom and Phniev with four pits over a 60-meter-long area; each pit is one meter deep and one meter in diameter. We also cut a 15-meter iron bridge.

At the same time, our Cambodian national resistance forces also shelled Moung district seat, killing five and wounding eight enemy soldiers, and destroying some ammunition.

Train Hits Landmine; Four Killed, Five Wounded

BK0202021890 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] On 25 January, a train of the Vietnamese enemy forces and their puppets moving from Kompong Som to Phnom Penh hit our landmine on Trapeang Lpeou bridge, derailed, and fell into the river. The locomotive and three cars were destroyed; four Vietnamese-puppet soldiers in the train were killed and five others were wounded; and a quantity of war materiel was destroyed.

Two SRV Regiments 'Routed' in Kompong Thom

BK0202020890 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] On 27 January, the Vietnamese enemy forces and their puppets sent two regiments of troops equipped with various types of artilleries from Kompong Thom Province to attempt to seize villages and communes in Kompong Svay District that we liberated on 25 January. They were ambushed by our national resistance forces in Kranhung, Prahut, Prey Trei, Samraong, and Chan Serei villages. Following one whole day of fighting, they were routed and forced to retreat in disarray. We killed 25 enemy soldiers, including 3 battalion commanders, and wounded 37 others. Thirteen bodies were left on the battlefield. We destroyed two field radios and some war materiel and seized seven AK's, two B-40's, and two RPD guns.

Villages Southwest of Phnom Penh Said Freed

BK0202003890 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] On 30 January, our national resistance forces launched an attack to disperse and free Vietnamese-puppet administrative officials in four communes, namely Svay Chachep, Svay Rampea, Kaoh, and Phong, in Kong Pisei District [Kompong Speu Province] on Southwest Phnom Penh battlefield. We killed 21 enemy soldiers and wounded 37 others; destroyed 18 B-40's and B-41's, 53 AK's, 2 drum-magazine machineguns, 35 SKS guns, and a rice milling machine; routed a battalion of Cambodian soldiers; and seized 1 DK-82, 4 machineguns, 50 AK's, 7 B-40's and B-41's, 9 SKS guns, and a quantity of assorted ammunition and war materiel.

We liberated 75 villages, namely Russei Yul, Cha, Chek, Svay Chachep, Sangke Leak, Anlung Leak, Thlok, Mlich, Trayoeng Te, Pongro, Chrey, Khleang Kantuot, Trapeang Chhlok, Trapeang Khtum, Sdok, Don Penh, Tumpung, Sre Khle, and Svay Prey villages in Svay Chachep Commune; Svay Rampea, Kaoh Chheuteal, Trapeang Kaoh, Tnaot, Chongreak, Ta Am, Pring, Prang, Prey Ro-ngaey, Kram, Mlich Chrey, Prey Dok, Khla Chil, Veal, Tuol Sala, Ta Tey, O Preal, Tuol, Sre Pring, Trapeang Russei, Kandieng, Sleng, Trapeang Khya, and Thlok Khang Kaeut villages in Svay Rampea Commune; Khnang, Thnal Dach, Thnal, Boeng, Trapeang Veng, Boeng Kachan, Prey Krong, Toap Mreak, Ta Traok, Ta Reach, Russei Veal, Ang, Khchek, Cheung Phnum, Trapeang Chhuk, Khlok, Kbal Thnal, Trapeang Pring, Tnaot Muoy Daeum, Prich, Prey Kal, and Trapeang Sophi villages in Kaoh Commune; and Roka Kaong, Roka Thom, Youl Tong, Kralong Chum, Kraol Krasang, Sambo Meas, Trapeang Toek Chreou, Tuol, Thmei, and Prek Mlu villages in Phong Commune.

We freed 260 village and commune administrators and 60 Cambodian soldiers. dd

Indonesia

Government Issues Invitations to Cambodia Talks

BK3001121790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1207 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Hanoi, Jan 30 (AFP)—Indonesia has officially proposed that the next informal meeting on Cambodia be held in Jakarta February 26-28 and has issued invitations to participants, Asian diplomats here said Tuesday. The conference, which will be similar to informal meetings held in Bogor and Jakarta in July 1988 and February 1989, will be conducted this time under the auspices of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, the diplomats said.

The February meeting will be co-chaired by Indonesia and France, as was the Paris meeting. The Paris conference broke up in August after the warring Cambodian factions failed to agree on the makeup of an interim government.

The Hanoi-backed Cambodian Government, the three resistance factions, the six Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) members, Vietnam, Laos and France have been invited to the meeting, the diplomats said. Besides Indonesia, ASEAN includes Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

It was unclear whether Australia had been invited to the meeting, the diplomats said. Canberra has proposed a peace plan, currently the focus of discussion, which calls for interim United Nations administration of Cambodia and oversight of elections. Earlier this month, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas publicly suggested that Australia take part in the next round of talks.

The dates put forth by Jakarta for the talks would overlap with a recently announced February 24-27 visit to Hanoi by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. Unless the dates of Mr. Dumas' visit are changed, observers said, neither he nor his Vietnamese counterpart, Nguyen Co Thach, would be able to attend the Jakarta talks.

The two previous informal rounds of talks were held at the foreign ministerial level under the chairmanship of Mr. Alatas without France's participation.

The July 1988 talks in Bogor brought together for the first time in the same room Cambodia's Phnom Penh government with representatives of the U.N.-recognized tripartite resistance, which is supported by China, ASEAN and the United States. The resistance is dominated by the Khmer Rouge, blamed for the deaths of hundreds of thousands during their 1975-1979 communist rule of Cambodia which ended with a Vietnamese invasion that installed the current government. They are joined by two non-communist factions headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and former Premier Son Sann.

Radical Muslim Group Leader Given 17 Years

BK0202025290 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 26 Jan 90 p 2

[Excerpt] Jakarta (JP)—A leader of a radical Moslem group calling themselves the Mujahidin Command Front was sentenced yesterday to 17 years in jail for plotting to topple the government and establish an Islamic state.

The East Jakarta District Court panel of judges presided over by Dien Mohammad said Nur Hidayat alias Abdurakhman, 30, was found guilty of initiating a series of actions which could have undermined the state ideology Pancasila and the government between August 1988 and February 1989. The actions categorized as subversion could have created unrest among the people and disturbed the nation's security, the presiding judge said.

Public Prosecutor Lukman Kartaprawira had earlier demanded that the court sentence Hidayat, who refused legal counsel during the trial, for life in prison. [passage omitted]

Laos

Seventy Lao Refugees Return Home From Thailand

BK3101140190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Seventy Lao refugees who voluntarily returned to their homeland were handed over to authorities of Champassak Province by Thai officials from Ubon Ratchathani Province during a ceremony held at the Chong Mek border crossing on the Lao-Thai border on 29 January and attended by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees representatives.

The Lao side thanked the Thai and UN officials for their cooperation in this regard and expressed hope that the future repatriation of refugees will be made in a similar manner in compliance with the spirit of the past two tripartite meetings of Lao, Thai, and UN officials.

Phoun Sipaseut Meets With Cambodian Ambassador

BK0102120990 Vientiane KPL in English 0925 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Vientiane, Feb 1 (KPL) - Phoun Sipaseut, politburo member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and minister for foreign affairs, yesterday met with Long Kem, ambassador of the State of Cambodia to Laos.

In their meeting the Cambodian ambassador informed the foreign minister of the overall development in Cambodia, the recent international activities of the State of Cambodia as well as the Cambodian Government's stance vis-a-vis the Paris conference of January 15-18 of the five superpower countries' representatives attending an international conference on Cambodia, and a recent statement by chairman of the Cambodian Council of Ministers Hup Sen on the formula of a global political solution to the Cambodian issue.

Foreign minister Phoun Sipaseut held the view that: the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] highly appreciates the recent efforts by the Cambodian soldiers and people in the counter-attack against the military operation and attack of the Khmer resistance groups that attempt to wage a civil war and to make an attempt for the Pol Pot genocidal regime to come back to power in Cambodia.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic acclaims and fully supports the just stance of the government of the State of Cambodia, which aims at eventually finding a formula for a global political solution to the Cambodian

issue. The declaration of Cambodia to be a permanently neutral country as well as the recognition of the UN role in its participation in the solution of the Cambodian issue by the government of the State of Cambodia manifest its gesture of good-will.

The LPDR views that a formula equitable and appropriate for the solution of Cambodian issue involves the respect for the genuine self-determination of the Cambodian people. This must be through a free, fair and democratic election and on the basis of the current realities in Cambodia with the existence of two governments: the government of the State of Cambodia and that of the Democratic Kampuchea. The government of the State of Cambodia has taken control of the country as a whole and is the only force which is capable of preventing the Pol Pot genocidal regime from the return to power.

Such a UN participation in the solution of the Cambodian issue must be on the basis of respect for Cambodia's independence and sovereignty. Only so doing it conforms to the UN Charter. The UN must be in a neutral and unbiased position, not allowing the Democratic Kampuchea to hold the Cambodian seat at the UN but either leaving it vacant or offering it to "the national council" as proposed by the chairman of the Cambodian Council of Ministers.

The LPDR hails the efforts by the five superpower countries that participated in the Paris conference on Cambodia.

This constitutes a break-through on the stalemate in the share of power during the transitional period in Cambodia. The UN is requested to organize the election in Cambodia. Unfortunately, the statement of this conference did not mention the prevention of danger in the returning to power of the Pol Pot genocidal regime, which is one of the two fundamental issues summed up at JIM [Jakarta Information Meeting] and is also the one which the world public is following closely.

The LPDR views that to stop war and to prevent the Pol Pot genocidal regime, there is a formula for an immediate and global political solution to the Cambodian issue which also corresponds with the basic right of the Cambodian people and the interest of nations in the region and that of parties concerned.

That is to say, the JIM and the international conference on Cambodia in Paris must be soon convened. The LPDR appreciates the constructive initiatives of goodwill aimed at reaching the political solution globally on the Cambodian issue and is ready to attend to them and to actively contribute toward the success of these conferences.

Article Marks Indochinese Party Anniversary

BK0202073190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Undated PASASON article: "Let Us Continue the Traditions of the Vanguard Units of the Revolutionary Forces in the Three Indochinese Countries"]

[Text] The date 3 February marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Indochinese Communist Party [ICP] by President Ho Chi Minh. The ICP was the predecessor of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP], the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV], and the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP]. It was built, trained, and nurtured by the great President Ho Chi Minh, the outstanding combatant of the international communist and workers movement.

Over the past 60 years, the communist movements in the three Indochinese countries—which were formerly called the French-Indochina countries—have advanced along a great, wide path. Their advancement has testified to the strength of the victory of Marxism-Leninism, their growth and development, and the strength of the three countries' solidarity, which cannot be destroyed by anyone.

In the initial stage of its founding in 1930, the ICP was composed of only 211 party members. Since then, the number of communists have tremendously increased in Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia. They have controlled state power and have led their countries to overcome numerous difficulties and complications to carry on a new life with a sense of confidence. Except for the three fraternal parties that continue the traditions of the ICP, so far there are no other parties or organizations in the three Indochinese countries that can offer clear-cut, skillful, and firm guidelines full of lofty ideals to the peoples, as done by the continuators of the ICP.

Continuing the excellent traditions of the ICP and following President Ho Chi Minh's teachings, the ICP cleverly applied Marxism-Leninism to the reality in the three Indochinese countries in conformity with requirements of the epoch. The Great October Socialist Revolution paved the way for countries under colonial rule to liberate themselves, to destroy the enemy forces, and to render assistance to oppressed nations. Because President Ho Chi Minh—the founder of the ICP—studied Marxism and lessons drawn by other countries, he was able to set up the objectives of the ICP's struggle and certain measures that led the party to score numerous successes.

In 1930, the ICP reached the conclusion that the struggle of the Lao, Vietnamese, and Cambodian peoples was but a common struggle waged for the attainment of a common happiness, and that only by cooperating with one another would the three peoples manage to score victories. That was because the three countries were then under colonial rule and fought against the common enemy—the French colonialists. During the years of

national liberation struggle against the ruling yoke of the French colonialists, the party consolidated all anti-imperialist forces and formed them into extensive united fronts to carry out activities through both legitimate and clandestine channels. In their struggles against the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen, the Lao, Vietnamese, and Cambodian communists resorted to implementing the united front strategy to mobilize people of all strata to join in the struggles to build a new life.

The armed uprising in accordance with Lenin's teaching was another method that was effectively utilized by the Vietnamese communists in August 1954 and by the Lao communists in 1975 to seize power throughout the country. By profoundly analyzing and studying the international situation and the situation in each of the two countries, the revolutionary forces under leadership of the parties in the two countries managed to swiftly seize power with minimal loss of blood.

On the path of struggle for national independence in each country, it is required that the three fraternal parties in Indochina—the LPRP in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the CPV in the SRV, the KPRP in the State of Cambodia—simultaneously employ political, military, and diplomatic measures in coordination with movements undertaken by the peoples in the three countries and the strength of the international solidarity forged by all progressive countries throughout the world.

The special solidarity, militant alliance, and all-around cooperation among the communists and peoples in the three countries—Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia—in the past as well as at present have clearly testified to the unification and sincere and fraternal assistance for mutual benefits. The three parties, which share the same origin, and the three Indochinese peoples always stand shoulder to shoulder in the same trench in their struggle against all enemy aggressors. In the new period of defending and building their countries into prosperous entities, it is necessary that the three fraternal parties further enhance the traditions of special solidarity and give more assistance to one another than before, so as to ensure the victory of the revolution in each country.

Lao Peace Delegation Leaves for Athens 31 Jan

BK3101141990 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] A Lao peace delegation led by Singkapo Sikhotchounnamali, chairman of the Lao Committee for World Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship With Other Countries, left Vientiane at noon today to attend the general conference of the World Peace Council to be held in Athens, Greece from 6 to 11 February.

The World Peace Council holds its general conference every 3 years. This year's conference is significant to the peace and anti-war movements worldwide because it will gather more than 700 pacifists from over 170 member countries of the World Peace Council who will review and appraise their performance and achievements during the past 3 years since the general conference in Sofia in 1986. They will also discuss the world's current problems, such as restoration of international peace and security, efforts to build a nuclear-free world, and new international challenges to the peace movement in the 1990's. The conference will elect new leadership of the council and revise, improve, and renovate the working mechanism of the council so that it can more effectively cope with new changes in the international arena.

Council Issues Decree on Nature Conservation

BK0202110090 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Decree of the Council of Ministers on the protection and conservation of aquatic and wild animals, and hunting and fishing"—dated 6 October 1990]

[Text] Based on the resolutions of the 5th, 6th, and 7th plenary sessions of the Fourth Party Central Committee, on the resolution of the First Nationwide Forestry Conference in May 1989, on the Council of Ministers Law No 1/82 dated 20 July 1982, and on the recommendation of the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry, the Council of Ministers issues the following decree:

Article 1: Aquatic and wild animals in natural habitat in the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] belong to the national community represented by the state and are under the state's unified protection nationwide. The state grants the right and responsibility to every Lao citizen to protect, breed, and exploit the said animals in accordance with the laws and regulations to ensure that the aquatic and wild animals continue to multiply.

Article 2: The Agriculture and Forest Ministry is assigned to conserve aquatic and wild animals, study, and work out strategies, policies, laws, and regulations governing the conservation and exploitation of aquatic and wild animals and submit them to the Council of Ministers for promulgation. The ministry shall issue directives, introductory documents, and detailed regulations for the implementation of strategies, policies, laws, and regulations governing the conservation and exploitation of aquatic and wild animals promulgated by the Council of Ministers. The ministry will organize, direct, and inspect the implementation of strategic plans, laws, regulations, directives, and other introductory documents governing the conservation and exploitation of aquatic and wild animals promulgated by the state; coordinate and cooperate with localities and sectors to organize propaganda and study campaigns to encourage every Lao citizen to cherish nature and, with the sense of responsibility, to conserve and exploit aquatic and wild animals in accordance with state laws and regulations.

Article 3: The prohibitive practices for hunting and fishing are: The use of weapons of war, explosives, and hunting and fishing instruments of a destructive nature are banned. A ban is imposed on the fishing and hunting of aquatic and wild animals specified in the preservation lists, namely animals in pregnancy and maternity and

those that are in danger of extinction. Fishing is prohibited during the breeding season.

Article 4: In the import and export of aquatic and wild animals, dead or alive, their carcasses and parts require transport permits and certificates stating their origins and health.

Article 5: Every Lao citizen has the right to capture and kill protected animals if they pose a danger to human life. The state has the right of possession over such captured or killed animals. Local forestry and environment protection authorities must be informed and urgently work out a solution in case domestic animals, crops, and property are destroyed by protected animals.

Article 6: Any collective communities or individuals who violate this decree will be reprimanded and fined, and evidence seized will be confiscated. In the case of major offenses, the offenders will be charged in court.

Article 7: The Agriculture and Forestry Ministry is assigned to prepare detailed guidelines, introductory documents, and regulations for implementation of this decree.

Article 8: Ministers and heads of organizations at ministerial level, and chairmen of administrative committees of provinces and municipalities, are assigned to organize the faithful implementation of this decree.

Article 9: This decree comes into effect from the day it is signed. Past directives, regulations, and orders which contradict this decree are hereby nullified.

Vientiane, 5 October 1989

Signed and Sealed: Kaysone Phomvihan

Chairman of the Council of Ministers

Philippines

Aquino: U.S. Fails 'To Honor Commitments'

HK0202083190 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 2 Feb 90

[By Vic Pambuan from Malacanang Palace]

[Text] It is possible that U.S. military bases will be removed from the country if the U.S. Government fails to act on a complaint by the Philippine Government in connection with the United States' failure to honor commitments related to the retention of the military bases in the country.

President Aquino also complained about the United States taking advantage of the country. She said that while we consider them as partners in trade, and they claim that we are a priority to them, it appears that the United States is using the bases unfairly, and treats the bases differently from other bases in other countries. She added that the United States pays us less than other countries.

The president also said that the United States has failed to honor its obligations to provide $200 million for the military assistance program and $160 million for the economic support fund. Information coming from Washington D.C. indicated that only $140 million will be granted for the military assistance program and $124 million for the economic support fund, some $96 million less than the agreed amount.

At the same time, the United States also failed to fulfill its promise to exempt the Philippines from restrictions imposed by the Berry Amendments, which would have U.S. military forces purchase Philippine products.

It was learned from the president that Dr Jose Abueva, chairman of the executive-legislative council, is now preparing a study on alternative uses for the U.S. military bases in the event that the bases agreement is terminated. Some options under consideration are construction of an airport, agricultural and industrial development, shipbuilding and repair facilities.

Here is a statement by Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus:

[Begin Manglapus recording in English] We discussed the reports from the Department of Foreign Affairs detailing the status of implementation of the memorandum of agreement of 1988. Our findings showed that the United States has failed to comply with some of its obligations under that agreement. The United States has failed to fulfill its commitments to provide for fiscal year 1990 $200 million in military assistance and $160 million in economic support fund.

This morning, we received information from Washington D.C. that only $140 million in military assistance and $124 million in economic support fund have been allocated to the Philippines, which means a reduction of $96 million. Furthermore, the United States has failed to seek an exemption for the Philippines from the restrictions of the Berry amendment so that Philippine goods and materials will continue to be purchased by United States military forces in the country. [end recording]

Salonga: 'No Reason' for Bases Talks

HK0202133190 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Senate President Jovito Salonga stressed there is no reason for holding any talks on the U.S. bases if it is true that the United States is not complying with what had already been agreed upon:

[Begin Salonga recording in English, in progress] ...and then be verified. There may be no reason to enter into any negotiations until their pledge is fulfilled, until the commitment of the United States is fulfilled, but that has to be verified. [end recording]

Manglapus Makes Statement On U.S. Aid

HK0202101390 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Statement by Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus on U.S. Government's failure to honor bases agreement obligations—recorded in English on 2 February from Malacanang Palace]

[Text] The President's committee on the bases discussed three major topics. First, we considered a report comparing our military bases agreement with the United States with those that the United States has with other countries such as Spain, Greece and Turkey. The United States said for many years that it considered us favored allies and equal partners. Yet it is clear from this report that some features of our bases agreement are inferior to those of other countries. These features include the provisions on compensation and on unhampered use of the facilities.

Second, we discussed the report from the Department of Foreign Affairs detailing the status of implementation of the memorandum of agreement of 1988. Our findings showed that the United States has failed to comply with some of its obligations under that agreement. The United States has failed to fulfil its commitments to provide for fiscal year 1990 $200 million in military assistance and $160 in economic support fund. This morning, we received information from Washington D.C. that only $140 million in military assistance and $124 million in economic support fund have been allocated to the Philippines, which means a reduction of $96 million.

Furthermore, the United States has failed to seek an exemption for the Philippines from the restrictions of the Berry Amendment in order that Philippine goods and materials will continue to be purchased by United States military forces.

Reaction to U.S. Charge of Government Corruption

Aquino Responds

HK0102125790 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1200 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Graft and corruption can not be suppressed in a day, despite the government's effort to check the problem. However, President Corazon Aquino said that her administration will pursue its fight against anomalies with relentless sincerity and vigor. Here is Tanny Rodriguez with the details:

[Begin recording in progress] ... President Aquino today through her statement to the media in reaction to published reports about U.S. officials' concern over the corruption problem in the Philippines.

The president recalled that she had issued Administrative Order 94 on 6 October 1988 in which she instructed all local and national officials and government employees not to give special attention to any representations made by real or imaginary relatives of hers. The order stated that any official approached by such real or imaginary relatives could file charges in accordance with the provisions of the Antigraft and Corrupt Practices Act against the offending parties. [end recording]

Further on Aquino Response

HK0202052590 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English 2 Feb 90 pp 1, 8

[By staff writer David Jude Sta. Ana, with a report from D. Pelayo]

[Text] President Aquino debunked yesterday charges by U.S. officials of "corruption of staggering dimensions" in her government. She said she is determined to wipe out graft although it cannot be done overnight.

Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III stepped up his attack on U.S. officialdom, detailing more cases of corruption in the U.S. government.

For his part, Presidential Spokesman Adolfo Azcuna singled out the press for reporting on Tuesday's hearing in the U.S. Congress about corruption, coup attempts and U.S. military bases in the Philippines. He said communist insurgents and extreme rightists are conducting a "mediabattle" against the government, "so you can expect a lot of distortions and disinformation."

During the hearing Tuesday, members of the U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee on Asia-Pacific affairs took turns in describing the extent of graft and corruption in the Aquino administration. They also warned of the danger of future coup attempts if Mrs. Aquino does not institute reforms, and of a resurgent national pride among Filipinos, which makes it difficult for the U.S. to retain Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base beyond 1991.

Mrs. Aquino said "the fight against corruption cannot be won overnight, but we shall pursue it with relentless sincerity and vigor." The Chief Executive recalled that she issued Administrative Order No. 94 on October 6, 1988, directing all national and local government officials and employees to disregard "representations made by real, pretended or imaginary relatives of mine."

Mrs. Aquino also cited the recent statement by U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar that despite the gains of the Aquino administration, the media tend to focus on negative reports. Azcuna said the U.S. government has high expectations about the Aquino administration's ability to combat corruption. "But I don't think we should emphasize so much what Americans think," he said. "We can think for ourselves, and Filipinos themselves have been decrying the continuance of graft and corruption." He added that corruption is now limited to the middle and lower echelons of the bureaucracy. "We

should point out that in the highest levels, there is no more graft and corruption; the President herself admittedly (sic) is clean."

The reports from Washington about the Congress hearing, he said, were only "selections" of what, among various statements, to play up.

Asked whom he suspects to be behind the supposed media campaign to discredit the government, Azcuna replied: "The enemies of Philippine democracy".

Gomez focused his tirade on U.S. officials critical of the Aquino administration. He said he is sending a memorandum to Mrs. Aquino and Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus to tell the Philippine panel in the forthcoming bases talks to bring up the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Savings and Loans Scandals, and irregularities in Pentagon purchases. Part of the compensation for U.S. use of the bases are housing development loans and military sales credits. Gomez also recalled that the contract to build the expensive and defective Bataan nuclear power plant "is an apparent contribution of American skulduggery."

At Camp Aguinaldo, Gen. Renato de Villa, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff, said extreme rightists are no longer capable of staging a coup d'etat of the same magnitude as the December rebellion, the sixth and bloodiest attempt to overthrow Mrs. Aquino. "I really do not know the basis of their prediction," De Villa said about the U.S. officials' warnings that coup attempts will continue.

Azcuna, Senators' Reaction

HK0202051590 Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Presidential Spokesman Adolf Azcuna stressed that the Americans have no right to speak about corruption in the Philippine government, claiming that even the United States has similar problems. He added that compared to the previous regime, the current administration is very much cleaner.

Azcuna's reaction followed statements by some American officials who sought to undermine the Aquino government. Some of these officials are Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Carl Ford and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State David Lambertson who appeared before the U.S. House of Representatives foreign affairs sub-committee on Asia and the Pacific.

Meanwhile, senators gave varying reactions to the statements by U.S. officials against the government. Senator Neptali Gonzales remarked that the smear campaign against the government is part of a U.S. campaign to convince us that we should keep the U.S. military bases in the country and that we should not ask for compensation for the retention.

According to Senator Ernesto Herrera, the pronouncements by U.S. legislators are proofs of declining U.S. support for the Aquino administration. On the other hand, Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani stated that the issue of corruption is one of internal affair in which the Americans have no business raising.

Meanwhile, Senator John Osmena said graft and corruption under the Marcos regime is being perpetrated by other people in the present administration.

Salonga, Tanada Urge Shelving Bases Talks

HK0202051390 Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Slantlines denote passage in Tagalog]

[Text] Senate President Jovito Salonga and Senator Wigberto Tanada have called for the shelving of the proposed exploratory talks next month on the continued stay of American military bases in the country. Meanwhile, Senator Leticia Shahani has reiterated her support of a 5-year phaseout of the bases.

[Begin recording] [Salonga] /If they are not fulfilling the present treaty, why should we enter into a new agreement?/ At any rate, our government, in my view, should already send a notice as dictated under the constitution, and that is to terminate the bases agreement. I would agree with Senator Gonzales as he has called for the isolation of the exploratory talks in view of this development. I second his call.

[Shahani] I think they'll stay despite, let's say, the end of the Cold War. They still would like to preserve a division in the Pacific. So the [words indistinct] and I believe that that is understandable. [end recording]

Malacanang Opposes Moves To Amend Constitution

HK0202053590 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 2 Feb 90 p 7

[Excerpts] Malacanang yesterday opposed plans to turn Congress into a constituent assembly that would propose amendments to the Constitution, with the end view of cutting the terms of top officials to desynchronize the 1992 national elections.

"It's not the right time to tinker with it (Constitution)," said Presidential Spokesman Adolf Azcuna. "As a matter of principle it's not good to keep on amending the Constitution because that's our fundamental law. We need stability. We're appealing to all sectors to support the Constitution."

Azcuna said President Aquino was against having to convene a constituent assembly if its primary purpose was to desynchronize national elections in May 1992.

"It's not the right time to tinker with it (Constitution)," said Presidential Spokesman Adolf Azcuna. "As a matter of principle it's not good to keep on amending the Constitution because that's our fundamental law. We need stability. We're appealing to all sectors to support

the Constitution." Azcuna said President Aquino was against having to convene a constituent assembly if its primary purpose was to desynchronize national elections in May 1992. "The alternative should instead be pursued which is merely to set at a different date the local election which does not need an amendment of the Constitution," Azcuna quoted the President as saying.

The proposal has hardly gotten off the ground but the issue of forming a constituent assembly has caused divisions in the Senate. Liberal Party senators yesterday criticized Senate President Jovito Salonga's "very cavalier" treatment and premature dismissal of their proposal for early national elections. The conflict was sparked by a statement issued by Salonga saying he was "not prepared to go along" with suggestions that Congress sit as a constituent assembly and amend the Constitution. [passage omitted]

Salonga Turns Down Snap Election Proposal

HK0202052990 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 2 Feb 90 p 9

[By Cynthia D. Balana]

[Text] Senate President Jovito Salonga yesterday turned down a proposal for Congress to act as a constituent assembly by calling an advance national election as this would result in the "wholesale managing of the Constitution."

Salonga was reacting to Senate Resolution 40 filed by Senators Ernesto Maceda, Rene Saguisag, Ernesto Herrera and Agapito Aquino which seeks to cut short the term of nationally elected officials by six months.

"I do not assign any unworthy motive to the authors of the resolution," Salonga said.

The Senate president said the present situation called for a pressing need to rally behind the 1987 Constitution and maintain the stability of the present Constitutional order. He said any proposed amendment to the charter can only be supported if dictated by urgent necessary or if there is no other way to achieve the desired objective.

"As a result of the last coup, our people, particularly the military, have all been urged to uphold and defend the Constitution," Salonga said. "If this three-year-old Constitution can be changed so easily, it may not earn the respect and allegiance of our people—it may not qualify as an institution worth dying for," he added.

The Maceda resolution aims to prevent the inconvenience of a synchronized local and national polls in 1992 and to accommodate the clamor for a "snap election" from elements associated with the December coup attempt.

The problem of holding simultaneous elections in 1992, Salonga said, may be easily overcome by simply enacting ordinary legislation which will move the local elections to a later time. Likewise, the election of local officials and their assumption can also be solved using the same approach without violating any Constitutional provision, Salonga said, adding that this will not entail additional expense on the part of the government. Salonga said calling a snap election would only amount to a "captiulation to the demands of the destabilizing forces in the society." He said there was no need to mollify some elements out to grab power by any means as this may actually aggravate the situation.

De Villa Confirms Plan To Free Coup Leaders

HK0202140390 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa has ordered tighter security around military camps, particularly where coup leaders are jailed.

In a press conference in Camp Aguinaldo, De Villa confirmed reports that other rebel soldiers are planning to rescue their comrades. Renegade Colonel Gregorio Honasan and former General Zumel are still being hunted by authorities:

[Begin De Villa recording in English—in progress] ...all the reports related to the RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement] and the loyalists [word indistinct] and we have uncovered the recent facts that they do intend to rescue some of the leaders, of their leaders that have been placed under our custody but [words indistinct] detained. And I think you can believe that this is a logical course of action and attack. It is an intention of [word indistinct].

Police Chief Wants Location of Coup Personnel

HK0202052190 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English 2 Feb 90 p 6

[By staff writer Dionisio Pelayo]

[Text] Camp Martin Delgado, Iloilo City—Maj. Gen. Ramon E. Montano, PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary—Integrated National Police] Chief, Wednesday ordered all personnel under his command to report their whereabouts during the foiled December coup attempt. The new requirement is part of the security check going on in all branches of the Armed Forces. Montano issued the order during a command conference here with top PC-INP officials in Western Visayas.

Meanwhile, Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin said he has "had enough" of reports of an alleged impending coup. He urged the public to help the government by giving information on the whereabouts of the leaders of the December Mutiny.

"I have had enough. And I would like everyone of us to stop talking about the coups," the Cardinal said in a speech before the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines. "Is this what we would like to see come

back to our beautiful country? A dictatorship disguised as a civilian-military junta which will crack down on the press, trample on our civil liberties, clap thousands of dissenters into jail—all in the name of good government?" he asked.

On Thursday, the country's Roman Catholic bishops vowed to help prevent or resist a new military coup attempt against President Aquino and said another show of "people power" might be needed.

Leaders of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) told a news conference one day after issuing a statement denouncing military power grabs that neutrality during coup attempts was unacceptable.

Share prices fell yesterday on the Manila Stock Exchange with the publication of news that American officials were worried about a new coup attempt against President Aquino. The slide followed an appeal by Mrs Aquino for a halt to coup rumors. The Manila Composite Stock Index of 25 selected issues declined 5.65 points yesterday to 1,043.28, down 0.53 percent from Wednesday's close. Brokers said reports that U.S. officials were concerned about instability here shook investors' confidence. One broker, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the market would make no substantial gains as long as political uncertainty remained.

They were referring to concerns expressed during hearings Tuesday in Washington of the House foreign affairs subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. During the hearings, reported prominently yesterday in Manila newspapers, U.S. officials and congressmen warned of political instabilitya nd corruption in the Aquino administration.

In his order, Montano required all PC-INP personnel to submit a narrative report on their activities during the foiled putsch. The narratives, he said, should include the persons they talked with, the nature of the conversations, the places they went to and why they went there.

Earlier, the various AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] promotion boards required all officers due for promotion to secure "coup clearances" from their respective superiors to prove that they did not join the coup attempt.

In his talks before PC-INP personnel here and at Camp Adduru, Cagayan, Tuesday, Montano urged Constabulary and police personnel to remain steadfast in defending the Constitution and to obey the proper chain of command.

Montano flew to Cagayan Tuesday to preside over the turnover of PC-INP Regional Command 2 from Brig. Gen. Pedro Sistoza to Col. Miguel Fontanilla. "We have shown that we stand solid behind the Constitution, the flag and the chain of command. Let us continue doing so," Montano said. "Let us protect ourselves from the blandishments and devious recruitment efforts of people out to destabilize the government," Montano said, but added, "We still face formidable challenge in the wake of new developments." Montano also told the troops to report to their superiors any recruitment efforts of rightist coup plotters. Any soldier or policeman who fails to report any recruitment efforts of rightist coup plotters will be regarded as a conspirator in the attempt to destabilize the government, he said.

Witness Retracts Testimony Against Enrile

HK0102134790 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] A prime government witness has retracted his testimony against Senator Juan Ponce Enrile in relation to the December 1989 failed coup. Here is Rey Mariano with the details:

[Begin recording] Romeo Sejero also denied reports that he escaped from the custody of the National Bureau of Investigation [NBI] last 22 December 1989. Earlier, reports stated that Sejero was missing and could not be located by government prosecutors. Sejero is one of the four waiters at the Silahis Hotel who served as NBI witnesses in the rebellion charge against the senator and opposition leader.

In relation to this, Senator Enrile strongly criticized the NBI and the Department of Justice's composite team for giving wrong information regarding the disappearance of Sejero.

Meanwhile, Major Victorio Pamangkil, of the Judge Advocate General's Office of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said that Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Matillano is still in the active service list of the military. In view of that, he said that the trial of Matillano in relation to a rebellion charge filed against him may be transferred to a military court. A written waiver from President Aquino is needed for the transfer of Matillano's case from the Department of Justice to a military court. [end recording]

Military on Alert Against Threat From NPA

HK0202070090 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 2 Feb 90 pp 1, 19

[By O. Masaganda]

[Text] Dangwa, Benguet—Brig Gen Orlando Q. Antonio, Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) chief, ordered military authorities in Ifugao province yesterday to secure the ballot boxes and plebiscite results after he received information that the New People's Army (NPA) will stage harassment activities and seize poll forms.

Ifugao is the only province in the Cordillera region that gave a "yes" vote during the plebiscite on the Cordillera Autonomy Law. The "no" votes appeared to have won in Baguio City and the provinces of Kalinga-Apayao, Abra, Mountain Province, and Benguet.

Antonio arrived here and conferred with Brig Gen Juanito Aquias, Cordillera Recom [Regional Command]

chief, about the peace and order situation in connection with the plebiscite. Antonio told Aquias to use two more helicopter gunships from the Nolcom headquarters in Camp Aquino, San Miguel, Tarlac, to expedite the transport of ballot boxes and returns from the barangays to the provincial capital.

Aquias briefed Antonio on the bomb explosion at the Commission on Elections (Comelec) regional office in Baguio City that occurred at 10 p.m. Monday.

Comelec Acting Chairman Haydee Yorac was about to hold a press conference when the homemade explosive, thrown by car-riding men, hit a tree in front of the Comelec office. No one was hurt.

With Yorac then were Comelec Commissioners Alfredo Abueg, Andres Flores, and Leopoldo Africa.

Yesterday, four PAF [Philippine Air Force] helicopter gunships with Comelec officials picked up ballot boxes and plebiscites results from the provinces of Abra, Kalinga-Apayao, Mountain Province, and Ifugao. The choppers were piloted by Captains E. Manalo, U. Maramo, and R. Pajarito and 1st Lts E. Milo, R. Santos, I. Espino, and O. Robles.

Aquias said that he ordered all PC [Philippine Constabulary] commanders to secure the helipad since the NPA guerrillas were reportedly planning to harass the helicopters ferrying the ballot boxes.

Initial counting showed that "yes" votes won in the province of Ifugao with a margin of 4,902 votes. The results are not yet final, according to the Comelec.

There are 51,192 register voters and only 30,078 votes have been counted.

Mindanao Municipalities 'Election Hot Spots'

HK0102045590 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 1 Feb 90 p 5

[By Carol Arguillas]

[Text] Davao City—The Southern Command (Southcom) has classified 57 of the 82 municipalities in the four provinces composing the Muslim Mindanao Autonomous Region as "election hot spots."

Elections for governor, vice governor, and three assemblymen per congressional district in Sulu, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur and Tawi-Tawi will be held on Feb 17.

Of the 57 hot spots, 28 have been classified as "critical," Southcom spokesman Major Hermogenes Esperson told the CHRONICLE. Classified as "very critical" were 10 of the 18 municipalities in Sulu, nine of 17 municipalities in Maguindanao, seven of 37 municipalities in Lanao del Sur and two of 10 municipalities in Tawi-Tawi.

The "very critical" areas were Maimbung (MNLF chairman Nur Misuari's stronghold), Indanan, Panamao, Jolo, Luuk, Parang, Kalingalang-Kalawang, Patikul, Talipao and Panglama Espino in Sulu; Buldon, Barira, Datu Paglas, Datu Piang, Maganoy, Matanog, Parang, Sultan Kudarat and Binaig in Maguindanao.

The other "very critical" areas are Bacolod Grande, Bombaran, Saguiaran, Maguing, Calanuges, Lumbayanague and Sultan Gumnander in Lanao del Sur; and Balimbing and Languyan in Tawi-Tawi.

Esperson also said Southcom chief Brig Gen [Brigadier General] Guillermo Flores has recently deployed the Army's 23rd Infantry Battalion in Agusan del Sur for election duty in Lanao del Sur. Esperson said the Southcom would deploy forces to troubled areas as may be necessary.

Brig Gen Gumersindo Yap, chief of the 6th Infantry Division based in Awang, Maguindanao, told reporters here that "if needed, we will put in more forces in Maguindanao."

Resigned Maguindanao Governor Zacarias Candao (LDP) [Struggle of Philippine Democrats] and Lanao Del Sur Rep Mohammad Ali Dimaporo (KBL-NP) [New Society Movement-Nationalist Party] are candidates for governor.

Domestic, International Flights Resume

HK0202022390 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 2300 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Airline traffic operations were suspended last night due to a nationwide strike of 360 Philippine Air Traffic Controllers Associations employees. Thousands of passengers from 44 domestic airports in the country were stranded while international flights were delayed.

Meanwhile, domestic and international flight operations resumed at 0600 today. [passage indistinct] Striking air traffic controllers and Ninoy Aquino International Airport [NAIA] General Manager Eduardo Carrascoso have agreed that the amount which the Department of Budget and Management cannot give for additional wages will have to come from NAIA's budget. The air traffic controllers agreed to return to work after a settlement was reached at 2200 yesterday.

Thailand

Montri Says Port Workers Agree To End Strike

BK0202144790 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] The labor unions of the Port Authority of Thailand agreed to end their strike and resume work tonight as a result of talks they had with the leaders of the three armed forces this evening. At 1930 today, Communications Minister Montri Phongphanit reported to newsmen as follows:

[Begin recording] As a result of their talks, negotiations will continue, based on issues left from negotiations on 13 September last year. Some misunderstandings may still persist, but the unions assured the army, air force, and navy commanders and the armed forces and army chiefs of staff that they would return to work tonight. They will speed up work to enable ships to dock at all wharves.

The leaders of the three armed forces reported the outcome of the talks to me as representative to the prime minister. The government is satisfied with the outcome. In fact, the government itself is concerned about the benefits of the public, including the port workers themselves. We, therefore, should resume negotiations later on. Well, at the moment the strike is over. That is from about 2000 or 2100 tonight. The port workers pledged to work around the clock to speed up goods loading. I hope they will let bygones be bygones, and we will resume negotiations to seek understanding. I think this is very good. The army, navy, and air force commanders and the armed forces and army chiefs of staff, as well as Deputy Supreme Commander General Phat Akkhanibut, were all present at today's negotiations. They have achieved an improvement in and a better understanding of the situation.

On behalf of the prime minister, may I say that the government is ready and willing to resume negotiations with the unions. Our work at the port must continue, however, as it involves the interests of all the people. We have to accelerate loading and unloading exports and imports without allowing any conflicts or disunity to disturb us anymore. I would like to thank the employees of the Port Authority of Thailand on this occasion. [end recording]

Further on Murder of 3 Saudi Embassy Officials

BK0202005190 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Feb 90 pp 1, 2

[Text] Gunmen shot dead three Saudi Arabian embassy officials, including a second secretary, near their homes in Yannawa yesterday [1 February] afternoon, police said.

Police were still probing the motive of the killing although investigators said possible causes include dispute with local racketeers sending Thais to work in Saudi Arabia and international politics.

Abdallah A. Al-Basri, second secretary of the Saudi Arabian consular section, was gunned down yesterday afternoon in front of Si Watthana apartment on Yen Akat Road, where he lived, according to police.

Eyewitnesses said Al-Basri was shot four times by a man, whom witnesses said looked like an Arab dressed in black and wearing sunglasses and a black cap. The gunman escaped on foot after firing at Al-Basri point blank.

Al-Basri took over as second secretary in the consular section from Salih Al-Malik, who was murdered in January 1989 in what police belived to be the result of a dispute with influential Thai job placement agents.

Police believe irregularities in the processing of Thai workers seeking employment in Saudi Arabia at the Saudi Arabian Embassy may have been the motive of the killing of Salih.

Al-Basri's murder was reported almost at the same time as those of another two officials of the Saudi Embassy. Police said the two were shot dead while they were about to enter their rented home in Soi Kengchuan off Nang Linchi Road. They were identified by the police as Ahmad Al-Saif and Fahd Al-Bahli.

Al-Saif was killed at the wheel while Al-Bahli, a subordinate of Al-Basri at the consular section, was found lying dead beside the car. Passers-by told police a gunman in a cream-coloured shirt and a yellow cap first opened fire at Al-Saif and then ran around the front of the car to shoot at Al-Bahli, who apparently tried to escape.

The scene of the latter incident was about 100 metres away from the residence of the Iranian charge d'affaires, but there was no immediate indication of an Iranian link.

Both indicents took place about two kilometres apart around 3.20 pm and each involved a lone gunman who escaped on foot, according to the police.

Somwang Mahamet, Al-Basri's Thai chauffeur, said he had driven Al-Basri's wife and her friends to a department store in Ratchada Phisek where they shopped yesterday afternoon. The chauffeur said he dropped Al-Basri's wife at their apartment first before sending Al-Bahli home.

"We found Al-Bahli and Al-Saif lying dead in front of their house inside and beside the car. And I hurried back to Al-Basri's apartment only to find him (Al-Basri) dead in front of the apartment," Somwang said.

Saudi embassy officials declined to comment on the murders.

—In Nonthaburi, Adisak Chamlongsuppharak, chief of the Public Relations Department's technical division, was slain by a gunmen riding on the back of a motorcycle as he was leaving his home in Muang district around 7 am yesterday.

Witnesses told police Adisak got off his car and made a lunge for a pistol after the gunman missed but was killed after being repeatedly fired at by the murderer.

Police would not confirm or deny whether the assassination of the three Saudi Arabian embassy officials and Adisak's murder were in any way related.

But sources in the Public Relations Department told THE NATION last night Adisak returned from Saudi Arabia, where he served for four years at the office of the information attache in Riyadh, two years ago.

"Adisak had on several occasions mentioned about his business in job placement for Thai workers in Saudi Arabia," said the source who asked not to be named.

Police Director General Sawaeng Thirasawat, who personally inspected the scene of the killing yesterday, said police investigators still could not pinpoint the motive behind the crime.

Police have launched a massive search for the gunmen and notified Don Muang security to watch out for any suspect attempting to leave the country, Pol Gen Sawaeng said.

Interior Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha told reporters yesterday that there were at least two assassins involved in the killing of the Saudi Arabian diplomats. The minister said he was told by police investigators that one of the murderers was a Thai while the other was believed to be a foreigner with light skin.

Foreign Minister on Murders

BK0202124890 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Statement by Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila at today's news briefing at the Foreign Ministry on the killing of three Saudi embassy officials in Bangkok yesterday—recorded]

[Text] I have sent a cable to the Saudi foreign minister today expressing sympathy on behalf of the Thai Government and people. The copy of the message is here with me. Well, I would like to say that it is the duty of the ministry and myself to preserve good relations between Thailand and other countries. When such an undesirable incident like this takes place, the good relations between our two countries could be at stake. We therefore have to do our best to clarify the incident as soon as possible.

I have already sent a written report to the prime minister. We have to conduct an investigation immediately in order to find the criminals, otherwise this could lead to misunderstanding and a strain in our relations. I have also written to the interior minister asking for an urgent investigation so that the motive of the crime can be established and the criminals arrested. This is to prevent any repercussions on relations between Thailand and Saudi Arabia and also to preserve Thailand's good image.

The director general of the Political Department has written to the director general of the Police Department asking for cooperation. Under international law, it is our duty to provide special security to the diplomatic corps. On the motive of the killings, we must leave it to the police to conduct an investigation and establish the facts. We should not make guesses or speculate on the incident, since it could distort the case which is now under the responsibility of the police. This is all I have to say.

Chatchai 'Will Not Run' in General Election

BK0202014190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Feb 90 pp 1, 3

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan says he will not run in the next general election, citing his age as a reason.

General Chatchai made the remark to a group of senior journalists on Wednesday night [31 January] when asked if he had become tired of being prime minister.

"I am not tired or worried about being in this position. The only thing I am tired of is talking. There are certain issues that I have to speak about myself to make everybody understand," he said.

Gen Chatchai said that throughout his 18 months in office he was filled with satisfaction. The good financial situation had helped the Government work well, and the unemployment problem had been solved, he said.

"It is not possible for the Government to collapse, unless there is a coup, which I think is not possible," the Prime Minister said.

"I think I am already old. So I will not run in the next general election," Gen Chatchai said, adding that since he became Premier he sometimes did not meet his wife, Khunying Bunruan, for eight or nine days at a time, although they were living in the same house and he did not go anywhere else.

The Prime Minister said he felt it was necessary for the Government to think about using nuclear power for electricity generating to cope with the country's growing demand now that it had become more difficult to sacrifice forests for dams and hydro-powered electricity plants.

The countries in Indochina were nearer to peace, and development of sources of energy were vital for countries in this region, he said.

Gen Chatchai said that because government officials were afraid they would be accused of corruption, some development projects had made no progress. He cited the Rangsit-Sara Buri road project as an example.

To solve this problem, Gen Chatchai said that in the next Cabinet meeting he would propose that the Army engineering corps be assigned to construct the road. On its completion, no toll fees would be collected, he added, reasoning that the people tended to feel that the Government had conspired with the private sector to build roads and collect money from them.

He said a bid for the construction of an elevated road over [Bangkok's] Khlong Saen Saep would be called soon to help solve the city's traffic problems.

On encroachment of forest reserves, Gen Chatchai said the problem had long existed.

"In fact, more than eight million people are now poaching forests. Many government installations have been built in forest reserves," he said.

"It will take the Government some time to gradually solve this problem because our laws concerning this issue are obsolete. Moreover, in fixing zones for forest reserves

the officials concerned never went into the areas but simply drew lines on the maps," he said.

Asked if Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut would resign and join the Cabinet, Gen Chatchai said whenever Gen Chawalit resigned the Government would offer him the Defence portfolio.

"In the last reshuffle, he was offered the Interior portfolio but he said he was not ready for it. So we'll have to wait," Gen Chatchai said.

Parties in the coalition were well united, and there was no problem with the Democrat Party, he said.

Article Views Recent Changes in SRV

BK0202020990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Feb 90 p 4

[Article by Jacques Bekaert under the rubric "Eye on Indochina" entitled: "The Best Tet Ever"]

[Text] Hanoi—All around Lake Hoan Kiem at midnight last Friday, Hanoi exploded in an orgy of firecrackers. Hundreds of thousands of people in the streets were celebrating the Lunar New Year, the Tet, in an exhuberant fashion, with an enthusiasm that reflected the general feeling of new confidence in the future of the country.

"This is the best Tet of my life," an artist friend said as he poured Bulgarian wine, while his wife served the traditional BANH CHUNG, the sticky rice-cake without which there is no true NAM MOI (New Year). Just to sit like that, in my friend's modest living room with the front door wide open on the lake and the explosions of Vietnamese- and Chinese-made "bombs," was in itself a new experience. A few years ago, it would have been impossible. Anyone receiving a foreigner at home would have been immediately reported to the police.

A few months ago it was a lot more relaxed but most people were still cautious. The regime was afraid the rest of the world would discover the poverty of its people. Not any more.

"We used to make sure our little house looked dirty enough," my friend said. "Otherwise we would have been denouced as 'bourgeois'."

But that Friday night, the dust was gone. Not only is it the tradition to clean house and glasses before entering the New Year, it is no more a malediction to be reasonably wealthy.

Vietnam has changed a lot since the sixth congress of the Communist Party in December 1986. And the Year of the Horse will probably bring even more changes, as the leadership realises it is time to bring the nation into the modern world. A new congress, probably at the end of the year, should not only confirm the trend to economic reform but also encourage further political democracy.

Not that the Communist Party is about to abandon its leading role.

"Pluralism, which was fading together with Bourgeoisism (sic), has now suddenly revived," noted a commentator with alarm on Radio Hanoi (January 14, 1990). "It puts on a new colour to continue its infiltration into the land of socialism," said Nguyen Cong Chu, evoking the "sinister dagger of pluralism." Pluralism in the minds of party leaders means chaos, disorder, destruction of social stability.

At this stage it may even be true.

Vietnam is not Poland. Its past experiences are much different. But several sources in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, often critical of the regime, said the lesson of Eastern Europe has not been lost. The party leadership is aware that what brought the downfall of the European socialist regimes was the lack of freedom, of democracy, not the economic hardship.

"A few days ago a deputy minister told me that the United States had spent two billion dollars to overthrow the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia," a senior party member said. "I told him this was the local communist leadership that was responsible for its own downfall, because of its rigidity, its lack of democracy."

And the Vietnamese party, reliable sources said, is ready to push for its own renovation. "What we will experience is a silent and quiet revolution," a long-time party member said. "Vietnam is not ready for Western-style democracy," he added. "It never really experienced it in its history. But we know very well that without further democratisation, Vietnam will hopelessly remain an underdeveloped country."

It is wrong to equate Vietnam with the Eastern European socialist regimes, a Hanoi-based Western diplomat said. Most East European communist reigmes were imposed upon the people by the victorious Soviet Army at the end of World War II. The Vietnamese Communist Party finds its legitimacy in its long struggle for national independence. East European communist leaders were often corrupt, incapable to accept any changes. No one has ever accused the members of Hanoi's politburo of "decadent living."

Corruption certianly exists in Vietnam, but not at the top level. "Even the conservatives are dedicated patriots," a former disillusioned party member said. The conservatives, people like Le Duc Tho, are still considered powerful. They enjoy the confidence of a vast network of ageing cadres, many of whom see present changes as a threat to their own position.

"I recently spoke to Le Duc Tho. To my great surprise I found an amiable man, totally dedicated to the wellbeing of his country. Even if I disagree with his views I have to respect the man," said a Vietnamese friend long known for his criticism of the party and its leadership.

Very few Vietnamese, I am sure, are seriously thinking of treating Le Duc Tho and his friends the way most European communist leaders are currently being treated by their own people.

What explains this new, gentler, kinder Vietnam is a mixture of prosperity and greater political freedom. Last year rice crops were good, even when the weather was unkind. There is no secret, sources in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh [City] said. The main reason is simple: land was returned to the peasants.

"Nine months ago I visited a small village, about 90 kilometres from Hanoi," a source said. "It was miserable. People were ignorant, and because of my slightly more sophisticated clothes, believed I was American." This was ironic, since my friend, born in Hanoi, has never been outside Vietnam. "The peasants knew nothing about politics, nothing about the rest of the world. They believed that Lenin (Le-Nin, in Vietnamese) was Le Duan's uncle."

My friend went back to the same village a few weeks ago.

"It was a great shock. Everybody had a TV, many a video machine. A few had aquired brand-new motorcycles and were travelling regularly to Hanoi. When they saw me again," the friend said, "they questioned me: Do you have a car, a video? When I told them no, they pitied me, treating me like a poor cousin."

The secret of this transformation? Again, private ownership of the land. "People were cultivating every possible inch of land, production had more than doubled. They were making money and for the first time in their life thought that the party was a great institution."

According to reliable sources, a special commission is now quietly working on a new Constitution for Vietnam. It will take a few years to be ready. The party does not like to rush things. But, a source explained, the new Constitution will radically change the face of the country.

While not everybody in Hanoi is ready to admit it, and old-fashioned rhetoric still flourishes once in a while in the official Press, many dedicated party members know that the world has changed; that it can no longer be seen in black and white, as composed of two antagonist blocks. "For a while we must accept the existence of different political systems. And let the best one win," concluded Professor Tran Bach Dang, one of Ho Chi Minh City's most senior party members.

Thai Newspaper To Train Lao Journalist

BK3001032590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] The official LAO NEWS AGENCY has agreed to send a young sub-editor for an intensive two-month training with THE NATION.

Adisak Sai-gnasit, 29, will begin his eight-week training on February 4 with the editorial staff of THE NATION. He will learn news writing techniques, editing, computerised press technology, photography and newspaper layout.

"It will help to strengthen understanding between the two peoples and news organizations," said Yong Chanthalangsi, editor and chief of international relations of the Laotian agency.

Adisak is the first Laotian to receive such training in a non-communist country. Most Laotian journalists received their training in Eastern Europe, particularly in East Germany and the Soviet Union.

The LAO NEWS AGENCY or KHAO SAN PATHET LAO (KPL) is an official agency which publishes news bulletins in English, French and Lao.

Adisak is part of the five member sub-editorial team who chooses and translates news from the vernacular press into English and French for the KPL daily bulletins.

Son Khamvanvongsa, minister of Information and Culture [position as published], said the training would benefit the Lao press.

Adisak will also participate in news meetings with senior editors during his two-month stay and file reports for THE NATION.

Thepchai Yong, THE NATION's editor, said the training programme is truly a manifestation of trust between the two countries. "It also contributes to South-South cooperation," he added.

The training programme is part of THE NATION's effort to help improve the standard of journalism in lesser-developed countries. Similar training will be given to journalists from Vietnam, Cambodia and other Asian countries this year.

THE NATION plans a series of news workshops to be conducted in Vientiane, Hanoi and Phnom Penh later in the year.

Vietnam

Spokeswoman on Soviet Withdrawal From Cam Ranh

BK0202105390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1024 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Hanoi, Feb 2 (AFP)—A total Soviet withdrawal from the Vietnamese air and naval base at Cam Ranh was purely a military matter to be decided by Moscow, a Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said.

"Whether or not the Soviet Union continues to use the (Cam Ranh) port is a matter for them and them alone," spokeswoman Ho The Lan said late Thursday [1 February].

She said Moscow had at all times consulted Hanoi on issues related to the use of facilities at the base, which was built in southern Vietnam by the United States during the Vietnam war.

Soviet ambassador to Phnom Penh, Rashit Khamidulin, said last week that Moscow, which announced a partial pullout from Cam Ranh in mid-January, would withdraw completely from this "base which has no major strategic role."

He said some planes at the base had been withdrawn at the end of December, but that no date had been set for a total pullout, adding that Moscow was not in any hurry and that no talks had been held with Washington on the matter. [passage omitted]

Ngyuen Van Linh Delivers Anniversary Speech

BK0202120590 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] An important meeting was held at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi Friday [2 February] to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of Vietnam, February 1. The conference hall was decorated with the national and the party flags, a tall statue of President Ho Chi Minh, slogans, and bouquets.

Attending the meeting were top leaders of the party, state, and mass organizations in Vietnam. Also present were delegations of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, the Cambodian People's Revolutionary Party, and members of the diplomatic corps. Many Vietnamese and foreign journalists were at hand.

Party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh delivered an important speech in which he reviewed the Vietnamese revolution over the past 60 years and affirmed the necessary advance of the Vietnamese revolution—that is, to build socialism, draw lessons on the leading role of the party and past work in the present renovation. He also dealt with several international problems.

General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh stressed: February 1, 1930 is the brilliant milestone in our party history marking the important turning point on the road to national liberation, independence, freedom, and socialism. The coming into being of our party was the phenomena tendency of world revolution. Our party is the product combining the patriotic movement and the movement of the Vietnamese working class and Marxism-Leninism. With the establishment of the party on February 1, 1930, Comrade Ho Chi Minh fulfilled a historic mission—that is, to bring to an end the deep crisis on the national salvation policy which had lasted for decades. The emergence of the party united all communist forces into one party leading the revolution. Since then, history has assigned our party a mission of leading the Vietnamese revolution, and the destiny of the nation is closely linked with that of the party.

Reviewing important developments in the past 60 years, General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh once again affirmed that the Communist Party of Vietnam is, first of all, the symbol of the nation's will for independence and freedom.

He said: In its 60-year history, our party showed that it is really a leader and organizer of all victories of the Vietnamese revolution. Sometimes, our party made mistakes and had shortcomings, but our party courageously looked truth in the face and openly practiced self-criticism and admitted shortcomings. The party is aware that right at present, during the course of leading and organizing the revolution, the party cannot avoid mistakes and errors. An overt recognition of mistakes does not weaken the party, but it is a sign of a strong party playing the revolutionary and vanguard roles, which believes in itself and the people. The party is resolved to overcome those shortcomings and mistakes, thus restoring its credibility and continuing to lead the revolutionary cause.

Looking back at its history, we can affirm that the party's strong points are overwhelming and that its successes are fundamental. Its wise leadership and unswerving stance stood out prominently during this period of historical events. To have such a party is a matter of pride and honor for every party member and all the people. Recognition of the party's strong points and successes is also a recognition of the heroic and creative path of the nation and the people, a recognition of a lesson—that is, the party believes in the people and vice versa. This is fundamental to any revolutionary achievement.

Reviewing the situation of the country after 3 years of implementing the resolution of the sixth party congress, Mr Nguyen Van Linh said: The socioeconomic situation at present has been improving. Agricultural production has made outstanding progress in terms of acreage, yield, and output. Food and consumer goods are relatively plentiful. Galloping prices have been checked. The currency regains in value. Inflation has been curbed. The state economy, after overcoming several hardships, has begun to advance. The non-state economic sector continues its dynamic development. The people's life has been improving. Negative phenomena in society have been condemned and settled. Socialist democracy has been expanded. The people's elected offices have begun to play a decisive role in reality. Their organizations have been streamlined. The party guidance and the state management have made initial improvements. People's confidence in the party has been restored.

After that, General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh pointed out some outstanding issues concerning the organizational and personnel work of the party in the present circumstances. He noted: The party leadership in Vietnamese society is indispensable. The party must constantly improve and perfect its leadership to be worthy of its political leading role. The party is the confidence and hope of the people. One of the most valuable traditions of the party is constant preservation of unity within the party. The strength and prestige of the party stem from the actual performance of party members, demonstrate

the vanguard and class traits of the party. The history of the Communist Party of Vietnam is one closely combining patriotism with proletarian internationalism and socialist internationalism, combining the strength of the nation with that of the epoch.

On the international situation at present, General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh said: As everybody knows, a number of socialist countries have met with serious difficulties. In the indispensable wave of restructuring and renovation to overcome errors that deform socialism, the communist and workers parties in some socialist countries have undergone a deep crisis, giving rise to contradictions that never existed before. We support a socialist-oriented renovation in these countries aimed at strengthening socialism and bringing into full play its superiority and making it a firm mainstay for other nations in the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and socialism. We sincerely hope that our fraternal peoples and parties soon overcome this great challenge, that these parties will regain people's trust, worthy of a political vanguard in society.

General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh concluded: Marking the 60th anniversary of the glorious Communist Party of Vietnam, we have the legitimate right to be proud of our party, of the road that our people and party have passed. Fifteen years after its founding, our party led our people to successfully carry out the August 1945 Revolution and 30 years after, wrested back freedom and independence in the whole country. At present, our party and people are entrusted with great historic tasks, which are firmly defending the country's independence and freedom and building Vietnam into a rich and strong socialist country, bringing a happy and prosperous life to the people.

The meeting marking the 60th founding anniversary of the Communist Party of Vietnam ended in the tune, "As if Uncle Ho Is With Us in Victory's Days."

Pham The Duyet Discusses Renovation Steps

BK0102154290 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Interview on the occasion of the Communist Party of Vietnam's 60th anniversary with Pham The Duyet, secretary of the Hanoi Municipal Party Committee, by Station Correspondent Tran Trong Chuy on "certain matters concerning the committee's leadership over socioeconomic development;" place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Tran Trong Chuy] Comrade, in view of the general situation of ongoing renovation in the country, could you tell us what renovation the Hanoi party organization has undertaken in its leadership?

[Pham The Duyet] Renovation is now a hot subject that concerns our party organization the most and with which our party organization must deal successfully. Recently, we have done some things that we regard as initial steps toward renovation. First, we have resolutely applied various new economic mechanisms. Since early 1989, we have started vigorously discarding all food stamp systems and started embarking on the cost-accounting business system. We have imposed a one-price system on essential goods and lifted all bans on the circulation of goods, in accordance with state stipulations. As a result, in production we have been able to do away with the state of false profits and real losses, and to reduce the negative practice of benefiting from price differentials. Last year, the quality of some 143 kinds of goods, including newly introduced ones, was found to be visibly better. Our currency continues to retain its value and goods are found in relative plenty on the market. More rice is being supplied to the state for sale from various sources. That is why rice of good quality is now readily available on the market.

From the policy of encouraging production and opposing state subsidies, state enterprises have achieved tangible growth. Nongovernmental economic elements have enjoyed conditions for producing more goods, thus giving a new semblance to the capital in terms of production and circulation. The lives of a majority of workers, civil servants, and people in the capital city have become less difficult than before. Visible improvements have been noted in the lives of a number of people, especially in families with members having jobs or enjoying favorable conditions in their agricultural production as well as of those technicians who know how to use their brains. As I see it, the recent Tet festival witnessed the outcome we achieved last year in our production and implementation of new policies.

The second aspect of renovation, I think, is that the municipal party committee has truly engaged in providing leadership for metropolitan management work, ranging among the issues of planning, studying a policy for building residential houses, renovating various streets by repairing pavement, improving electricity and water supply, ensuring electricity for streetlights, and maintaining social security and order. The question of ensuring payment of salaries to workers and civil servants on schedule has also been taken into account. Since last August, this question has been resolved in a relatively satisfactory fashion. Caring for families entitled to special privileges has also been a job to which we have paid a great deal of attention. Such activities are being promoted and actively resolved so they can become a stable pattern. To renovate, we must do everything we can for the sake of the people in the capital city. We think that the things we have done are in the right direction of renovation, because they have produced tangible results.

[Tran Trong Chuy] In your opinion, what are the characteristics of the Hanoi capital? And how has your party committee used these characteristics in providing leadership for various central issues?

[Pham The Duyet] The Hanoi capital is an ancient city. Its infrastructure is very weak. There is a serious shortage of housing, for the city was initially designed to

accommodate some hundreds of people. Its population now reaches millions. The once fairly good production system, comprising nearly 200 machinery plants that we have developed over the past decades, has now become an obsolete industrial system made up of antiquated machines that no longer have any depreciation value. In addition, Hanoi has been a symbol of a heavily-subsidied state management mechanism. Its business transactions lack dynamism, and there has been a failure to develop the potentials and intellectual forces of the capital city, where a large number of central government organs—accounting for approximately 70 percent of the total public organs—are located. Hanoi has another distinct characteristic: It has to accommodiate up to 200,000 retirees and many families that are entitled to special privileges, such as those of war invalids, fallen heroes, and sick soldiers. I believe that these figures surpass those in any other provinces. Therefore, our present task is to concentrate on doing the following things:

First, vigorously execute the new management mechanism in order to eliminate state subsidies as mentioned above, step up the prodution of goods, exploit all potentials, especially the intelligence of the contingent of scientific and technical workers in the capital, and achieve social justice. It is certain that, with this new management mechanism, we will be able to solve employment and other welfare problems.

Second, seek to improve the metropolitan administration and build the infrastructure for the capial city such as housing, roads, etc. along with efforts to apply the new management mechanism, for this mechanism will attract various sources of capital and capabilities of the state, the capital city, the people, and other localities throughout the country, including those of overseas Vietnamese and foreign countries engaging in joint ventures with Vietnam.

Third, attach importance to the building of grass-roots party organizations and to the improvement of party members' quality, and consolidate the position and efficiency of party committees and governmental echelons in their leadership over anti-corruption efforts with a determination to create confidence among the people.

[Tran Trong Chuy] As a center of cultural, social, and scientific-technological activities, Hanoi has many noted scientists and men of talent. What measures have the Hanoi party and people's committees taken to exploit these intellectuals?

[Pham The Duyet] Regarding this issue, I myself and those who have been working here for a long time realized that shortcomings are still prevalent. However, during the past period, Hanoi has paid special attention to exploiting the intellectuals. I think that the capital must pay more attention to this issue in the days ahead and that we should design a mechanism and formulate a policy on science and technology to attract scientists in the capital city and from localities as well as those who live abroad. Only when we have an effective mechanism and a correct policy will we be able to integrate more capital and exploit the intellectuals. This will help us accumulate more wealth and materials. I believe that in the years ahead we will carry out this task effectively. Of course, in addition to our efforts, we must rely on science and technology to renovate production and achieve progress for the capital city.

[Tran Trong Chuy] At present, Hanoi and many other major cities face an unemployment problem. Hanoi now has many unemployed workers. What measures have the Hanoi party and people's committees taken to resolve this issue in the past period and in 1990?

[Pham The Duyet] I think we should not resolve the unemployment problem by recruiting workers to work in state agencies as we did before, but instead, we must formulate a correct policy to encourage state-run establishments, collectives, households, individuals, and foreigners to invest more capital in both production and business to resolve the unemployment issue in the capital city. It is imperative for us to effectively implement the Council of Ministers' Decision No 176, which stressed that the most important thing is to provide jobs for workers, civil servants, and laborers and that we should not resolve the issue by granting these people allowances and sending them home. I hold that resolving the unemployment issue is of great significance to the capital city.

[Tran Trong Chuy] Hanoi has satisfactorily implemented the Council of Ministers' Directive No 135 on anti-crime. Can you elaborate measures to fulfill this task in the days ahead?

[Pham The Duyet] In the days ahead, we will strive to carry out this task more effectively and will resolutely consider it our regular work. We will pay special attention to promoting coordination between grass-roots units, wards, and villages to carry out this task effectively and will not rely solely on the police force, while strengthening the capital's supervision and guidance. We will strive to eliminate the practice of carrying out tasks just for form's sake, which is detrimental to the people's confidence in the authorities.

Regarding the struggle against negativism and corruption at various echelons, especially among cadres vested with economic authority, I think that the central government should provide concrete guidelines to effectively eliminate corruption, restore social justice, and promote democracy. This is a difficult task, but I think we must do it resolutely because in implementing the renovation undertaking, we will encounter more difficulties. As a result, I earnestly hope that the central government will provide us with concrete guidelines and motivate the people to monitor implementation of the capital party organization's resolution in order to help us achieve more concrete, firmer results to meet the aspirations of people in the capital and throughout the country.

[Tran Trong Chuy] Thank you very much, Comrade.

Symposium Calls for Change in Party Leadership

BK0102135890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1328 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Hanoi, Feb 1 (AFP)—A symposium called on the "backward" Vietnamese Communist Party (VCP) to change its leadership and seek more democracy within constitutional guidelines, the communist daily NHAN DAN reported Thursday [1 February].

Participants at the symposium—organized by the Nguyen Ai Quoc National Institute in Hanoi on the VCP's 60th anniversary—said the party was weakened by bureaucracy, corruption, and abuses of power, NHAN DAN said.

Determining it was "imperative to improve the party's leading role and relations between the party and the people," participants called on the VCP to "return to its origins" and remain "a Marxist party accustomed to the communist and international workers' movement."

In a series of suggestions, they called for a change in the party's structure, a redefinition of its role in public services, a reform of its ideological work, and more democracy within the "framework of the Constitution."

There should be more freedom of information and speech as well as in the adoption of party resolutions, participants added.

The party "must lead democratically ... within the framework of the Constitution and not beyond the Constitution," they said.

It also asked for a reappraisal of party members' moral values, and for a redefinition of the party's relationship with people's organizations.

Several of the some 80 speeches were devoted to "weaknesses" and "causes that diminished the confidence of the people in their party," the newspaper said.

Speakers referred to "bureaucracy," "corruption," "the isolation of the masses," "infringement of the party on public services," and "the false notion of a party's governing role."

Symposium participants who addressed a VCP Politburo member accused "some party members and executives ... of oppressing the masses," NHAN DAN reported. Others were criticized for being "conservative and inert."

The party's leadership must be institutionalized to "avoid abuses of power," they said.

Dao Duy Tung Speaks at Semin[illegible]

BK0102154190 Hanoi VNA in English 1434 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 1—"Renovation cannot succeed unless the party renews its leadership and its organisation" said Dao Duy Tung, politburo member and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, at the closing meeting here today of a two-day seminar under the theme "The Party in Renovation for Socialism."

Dao Duy Tung analyzed the main requirements in the renovation of the party leadership and its organisation. Regarding the contents and method of leadership of the party towards state organs, he said:

"First, the party is the leading organ, not an organ of power with direct managerial functions. It exerts its leadership by democratic persuasion not by imposition, and within, not outside, the framework of the constitution. Therefore, the party leadership must be institutionalized. If not, abuse of power and bureaucracy are unavoidable.

"Second, to renovate ideological work, the way of thinking, and raise the standard and intellect of the party. Intellect consists not only of Marxism-Leninism but also of the achievements of other scientific branches and practice of the revolution.

"Third, to broaden democracy and ensure multidirectional information. Democracy in discussion, democracy in the adoption of party resolutions, democracy in personnel work, democracy toward persons of different views and the minority, and democracy in taking disciplinary measures against party members.

"Fourth, to renovate the party apparatus and the structure of the various commissions of the party in order to raise their quality and efficiency.

"Fifth, to renovate the party's mass mobilization work. The masses should be led to the target and along the way chosen by the party and people, and they should have genuine democracy. Starting from the postulate 'the people are the root,' it is necessary to generate new motive forces by taking the interests of the masses as the basis.

"Sixth, to renovate the way of thinking, and the way of judging the ethical values of a communist party member. It is necessary to preserve the quality of a communist in all circumstances.

"The danger of a party in power lies not only in the errors of its line and policies but also in the decadence of its members and their alienation from the masses," Dao Duy Tung added.

Information Minister Gives Brief on Press Law

BK0202055890 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Comrade Ho The Lan, head of the Information and Press Department and spokeswoman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry, held a regular press conference at the Government Guest House on the afternoon of 1 February 1990. Attending were foreign correspondents, military attache of many foreign ambassies, and representatives of a number of international organizations in Hanoi.

At the press conference, Comrade Tran Hoan, minister of information, introduced our country's new press law recently passed by the National Assembly. The minister stressed the need to have a press law and recounted the process of preparing the law, lasting from July 1987 to 28 December 1989, when the law was passed by the National Assembly.

The new press law passed by the National Assembly reflects the wisdom of the entire country and particularly of the Vietnamese National Assembly on the basis of those correct renovative viewpoints and principles applied over the past 2 years.

The new press law ensures further vigorous development of the rights, obligations, and responsibilities of citizens, of the press, of journalists, of party and state organs, and of social organizations in the utilization of freedom of press and freedom of speech in the press according to the party's renovative lines and viewpoints. This law is neither a particular law of the press nor of the state organ of management but rather a press law of the entire people and of the entire Vietnamese society. It is a press law enacted by the entire country with a renovative and democratic spirit to meet the requirements of the Vietnamese Revolution in the new stage, namely building socialism and defending the socialist Vietnamese fatherland.

Minister Tran Hoan added: In order to enable the press law to go into effect early, the Council of Ministers are compiling many by-law documents such as a decree providing detailed stipulations for the law, a decree dealing with various systems and rights accorded to journalists, a decree promulgating regulations for foreign press activities in Vietnam and Vietnam's press activities abroad, and a decree stipulating the system of award and penalty for violations.

Commentary Hails Hun Sen's Peace Proposal

BK0102141190 Hanoi International Service in English 1100 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Station commentary on "Hun Sen's new proposals for solving the Cambodian problem"]

[Text] The latest proposals by Mr Hun Sen consist of two important points. First, the Phnom Penh government accepts the status quo at present of two governments controlling two zones of Cambodia. Second, a national council is to be set up involving members of both governments. This council may represent Cambodia and occupy the UN Cambodian seat. These proposals were made during an interview granted by Mr Hun Sen to the FINANCIAL TIMES correspondent in Phnom Penh. They reflected goodwill and flexibility and are believed to be another step in comparison with the Australian initiative. Broad section of public opinion has voiced the support for these proposals describing them as positive steps toward a political solution to Cambodia.

It is necessary, however, to note that these proposals do not mean an acceptance of the criminal Pol Pot gang. Chairman Hun Sen has affirmed that the Cambodian people and the Phnom Penh government will not accept any political solution that fails to prevent the Khmer Rouge return to Cambodia. This is a correct stand in conformity with the aspiration of the Cambodian as well as the world people.

Chairman Hun Sen's latest proposals for the settlement of the Cambodian issue were responded favorably by the 12-member country of the European Economic Community. In a statement, these countries rejected Pol Pot's genocidal policy and considered that it is essential in their policy not to let the Khmer Rouge return to power.

At present, everything is obvious regarding a solution to the Cambodian issue. The Phnom Penh government has made all compromises possible and refused to any role by Pol Pot.

If countries concerned shared the Phnom Penh government's views and implement Chairman Hun Sen's latest proposals, then the Cambodian problem would soon be solved.

Chairman Hun Sen made it clear that in case there is a ceasefire and a cessation of foreign military aid to all Cambodian factions together with the implementation of the Phnom Penh proposals along with the guarantee of the non-return to power by Pol Pot, the Cambodian issue may be solved in 1990.

Nguyen Co Thach Receives DPRK Delegation

BK0202052390 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] On 30 January, a delegation of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Cha Pong-chu, arrived in Hanoi for a visit to Vietnam at the invitation of the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The delegation visited President Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum and living quarters and was cordially received by Comrade Nguyen Co Thach, member of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of Foreign Affairs.

Comrade Dinh Nho Liem, member of the Party Central Committee and first deputy minister of Foreign Affairs,

received and held talks with Deputy Foreign Minister Cha Pong-chu. The two sides informed each other of the situation in their respective countries and exchanged views on development relations between the two countries and two Ministries of Foreign Affairs, as well as on some international and regional issues of mutual concern.

The Vietnamese side affirmed that now as before, the people of Vietnam support the cause of peace, sovereignty, and national unification of the Korean people and wish the Korean people many new successes in implementation of the third 7-year plan.

The Korean side hailed the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in implementing the resolution of the Sixth Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Congress and President Ho Chi Minh's testament.

While in Vietnam, the delegation visited a number of economic and cultural establishments in Hanoi, Ha Nam Ninh, and Haiphong.

Chairman Do Muoi Receives U.S. Scientist 1 Feb

BK0202092790 Hanoi VNA in English 0551 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb 2—Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, received here yesterday Prof. Jeremy Stone, director of the Federation of American Scientists, during the latter's visit to Vietnam.

Also present at the reception was Prof. Nguyen Van Hieu, director of the Vietnam Institute of Sciences and Technology.

Chairman Do Muoi and Prof. Stone had open, frank talks on issues of common concern.

The chairman expressed his wish for further cooperation between the U.S. and Vietnamese scientists, thus helping to normalize the relations between the two governments and strengthen the friendship between the two peoples.

Do Muoi also wished the U.S. scientists more achievements in contributing to peace, happiness, civilization and progress of mankind.

Nguyen Co Thach Greets Czechoslovak Counterpart

BK0102155290 Hanoi VNA in English 1440 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb 1—Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach today extended greetings to his Czechoslovak counterpart on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The message says:

"Over the past 40 years, the friendship and all-round cooperation between our two countries have increasingly consolidated and developed, making an important contribution to the national construction in each country and to peace and friendship among nations.

"May the friendship and all-round cooperation between our two countries continue to strengthen and develop in the interests of the two peoples and of peace and social progress."

Australia

Agreement With New Zealand on Drift Net Fishing

BK0202090390 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Australia and New Zealand formally agreed to use their respective air forces to try to restrict drift net fishing in the Tasman Sea. The measures were announced following a meeting in Auckland between the Australian prime minister, Mr [Bob] Hawke, and his New Zealand counterpart, Mr [Geoffrey] Palmer.

A Radio Australia correspondent in Auckland, Kate Wall, says the two leaders have signed a convention calling for the banning of drift net fishing in the South Pacific. Drift net fishing with the so-called wall of death involves the use of nets sometimes up to 50 kilometers long. These are regarded as environmentally damaging.

New Zealand and Australia have agreed to use their respective air forces to patrol the Tasman Sea and to intensify the surveillance of drift net fishing. The New Zealand Press Association [NZPA] says the convention requires both countries to work together to enforce bans on drift net fishing in the South Pacific.

The NZPA says New Zealand and Australia will help the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency obtain more information on the activities of drift net ships. The two countries will also support the Forum Fisheries Agency in designing a regional surveillance program of fisheries which South Pacific Forum members called for at their conference in Tarawa last July.

East Europe Changes Prompt Improved Ties

BK3001091490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0852 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Canberra, Jan 30 (AFP)—Irreversible changes in Eastern Europe have prompted Australia to upgrade diplomatic relations in the region with an embassy in Prague, Prime Minister Bob Hawke said here Tuesday [30 January].

Mr. Hawke told a news conference that there was no doubt about the irreversibility of the decisions made by the peoples of Eastern Europe and their commitment to change. He said that an embassy would be opened in Prague, extending Australia's diplomatic representation which already covers Moscow, Warsaw, Budapest and Belgrade.

Mr. Hawke foreshadowed increased Australian trade with the region and involvement in training and assistance.

Fiji

Prime Minister on Consolidating Economic Progress

BK2301100090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0955 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Suva, Jan 23 (AFP)—Fiji Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara said Tuesday his government would consolidate the economic progress it had achieved in the aftermath of the two military coups of 1987.

Ratu Mara told a meeting of the Economic Strategic Committee there were strong indications that economic growth of 12 percent in 1989 would accelerate over the next two years.

He said that the recovery of the economy after the shattering coups and subsequent political turmoil was reflected in the return of investor confidence and the increased number of jobs.

Paid employment, which fell from 80,800 in pre-coup 1986 to 77,700 a year later, had risen to 89,600 in 1989, Ratu Mara said.

Employment growth was a result of increased investment in the fast-expanding garment industry "which has been explosive in the past two years," he said.

Garment exports were expected to be worth 100 million Fiji dollars (67 million U.S.) by 1992 from an infant status in 1985 as more factories were opened by investors from Southeast Asia taking advantage of Fiji's preferential access to European and North American markets.

Fiji has offered a number of investment incentives, including tax-free zones, to attract foreign funds into the country.

"We need to think also about what we do after garments," Ratu Mara told the committee. "They cannot go on expanding at their present rate forever."

"It may be possible to move into markets requiring a significantly higher level of technology than most of those operating at present," he said.

Inflation, which reached 14 percent after two devaluations cut more than a third from the value of the Fiji dollar, was down to 6.1 percent by the end of last year, compared with 1.8 percent in 1986.

The prime minister said that developing economies such as Fiji could learn a lot from newly industrialised countries such as Singapore.

He praised Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew for presiding over "one of the most successful countries in ther world."

"His strategic view is consequently of great interest to Fiji," Ratu Mara said.

Nauru

All Investment in Western Samoa Withdrawn

BK2801065090 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] The Nauruan Government has closed down its operations in Western Samoa and is selling its assets. A Radio

Australia correspondent in Apia says the move has been seen partly as a reaction to an accusation by a cabinet minister last year that Nauru had secretly contributed to the opposition leader's campaign fund in the 1988 general election. The accusation led to a serious breakdown in relations between Nauru and Western Samoa.

Our correspondent says the Nauruan Government stopped work on a Western Samoan $40 million (?health) project and withdrew all its other investments.

The former Nauru consul, Mr (Keith Annadale), is reported to be organizing a final sale of Nauru assets in Western Samoa.

Papua New Guinea

Police Minister Discusses Riot Police Training

BK0202090190 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Papua New Guinea's Police Minister Mr Mathias Ijape says members of the forces lack basic weapons training and as a result have misused their guns in combat zones. A Radio Australia correspondent in Port Moresby, Rob Raskie, says riot police in particular have been accused of serious human rights abuses on Bougainville in the fight against militants.

Our correspondent says there have been allegations of beating and shooting of innocent civilians in the conflict which began in late 1988. The police minister says some policemen placed in dangerous situations have never previously use rifles and did not know how or when to fire them, and some have ended up in court on serious charges.

Mr Ijape says weapons training for riot police would now be stepped up after being phased out 8 years ago. He says the riot police will be expanded and trained in military tactics and become a proper paramilitary force.

Australian aid worth about $1 million will help pay for the scheme. The minister also conceded riot police squads are under strength and short of equipment. Our correspondent says some observers on Bougainville blame these tactics for human rights abuses and a high casualty rate suffered by officers there.

Australians Evacuated From North Bougainville

BK3101052290 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] In the far north of the Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville about 40 Australian nationals have been evacuated because of increased activity by militants. Radio Australia's correspondent in Port Moresby, Rob Raskie, reports another 40 Australians in Bougainville have stayed behind because of concern about their businesses and the safety of their workers.

Raskie says the island of (Buga), up the northern tip of Bougainville, and an approach road are believed to be controlled by militants with roadblocks in place. In fresh clashes, another gunman has reportedly been killed and a policeman is missing in the (Buga) passage.

Meanwhile, the Department of Foreign Affairs in Canberra says 680 Australians still in Bougainville risked being caught up in the escalating conflict between militants and the Defense Forces.

A department spokesman says all Australians without essential reasons to stay should leave Bougainville this week.

In other developments, the Papua New Guinea cabinet is today due to consider its handling of the Bougainville crisis and allegations of human rights abuses by the security forces.

Minister Criticizes Bishop Over Bougainville Row

BK3001063590 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] A major rift is reported between the government in Papua New Guinea and the Roman Catholic Church over the handling of the crisis on Bougainville amidst reports of another rebel attack on the troubled island. Papua New Guinea's defense minister, Mr Benais Sabumei, has described Bougainville's bishop, (Singkei), as an un-Christian hypocrite following comments the bishop made in the Australian press when he accused the security forces of killing innocent Bougainvilleans.

The defense minister said that Bishop (Singkei) publicly supported secession and despite his influential role on the island had never condemned militant violence in the crisis. Mr Sabumei said the bishop's silence over the question of Bougainville's secession from Papua New Guinea and (?activity of terrorists) were deafening the rest of the country.

The defense minister said many foreign priests had encouraged landowners on Bougainville to demand compensation for economic injustice resulting from the development of the copper mine at Panguna.

The verbal attack against Bougainville's bishop came amidst report that a policeman had been shot on a pontoon by militants near the northern island of (Bukei) and was believed to have drowned.